

Syria: No multilaterals without progress

DOHA (AP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaz was quoted Tuesday as reiterating that his country will not take part in the multilateral Middle East talks scheduled for Moscow on Jan. 28-29 unless progress has been recorded in the bilateral negotiations. "There is no meaning to discussing such issues as regional cooperation, water problems and economic relations without having taken negotiations to the core of the (peace) process which is the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories," Mr. Sharaz told the Qatari daily Al Sharq. Syria and other Arab parties directly involved in the conflict with Israel have made no progress towards a Middle East settlement in the bilateral talks to resume early January in Washington. Mr. Sharaz said his country agreed to get involved in the U.S.-led peacekeeping process initiated under U.S. and Soviet auspices in Madrid "out of faith in Israel but because of the strong influence from the American side." Syria, he said, "knows full well that Israel does not want peace." The bilateral talks will not progress without effective American intervention, Mr. Sharaz said in an interview conducted in Damascus before Wednesday's visit of Qatar's emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani.

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Regent visits GHQ

AMMAN (Peta) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday paid a visit to the Armed Forces headquarters and met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fahd Abu Taleh, the chief of staff — land forces, the chief of staff — Royal Air Force, and a number of assistants as well as the Armed Forces inspector general. Prince Hassan met for a while with Field Marshal Abu Taleh and discussed with him issues of interest to the Armed Forces. Prince Hassan also took part in a long walk exercise carried out by one of the Special Forces Units as part of their training activities to develop physical fitness and tolerance.

Cabinet holds meeting

AMMAN (Peta) — The Cabinet decided in a meeting held Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to set up a first-instance court in Jarash district and a reconciliation court in Naour district. It also approved an amendment to the Lawyers Law and decided to re-allocate JD 1,575,000, allocated previously for paying back debts and appropriation costs, to support local councils. It has also decided to allocate JD 1,425,000 for supporting municipal and rural councils from the emergency budget allocations. The Cabinet also approved the minutes of the Jordanian-European Cooperation Council meeting which was held in Brussels last September.

Israel joins treaty against missile spread

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel will join an international pact limiting the spread of missile technology on Dec. 31, the defence ministry announced Tuesday. The treaty involved is the missile technology control regime, set up by the seven industrialised nations in 1987 and joined since by nine other countries. A ministry statement said Israel would sign "a new proclamation" controlling exports of missiles or components that could be used to deliver warheads weighing 500 kilograms or with a range of 300 kilometers.

Iran releases 6 Moroccan POWs

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has released six Moroccans captured as prisoners of war (PoWs) during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, the government announced Tuesday in Tehran. The official Iranian news agency, IRNA, said the six were handed over to the Moroccans in charge of affairs in Tehran, Hassan Mohammad Davoud, in what it described as a humanitarian move and a gesture of goodwill following last week's resumption of full diplomatic ties between Iran and Morocco.

Dutch expel 9 more Russian Jews

AMSTERDAM (R) — Nine more Russian Jews denied asylum in the Netherlands were deported to Israel Monday, the Dutch ANP news agency said. The Dutch Justice Ministry last week forcefully expelled 43 asylum-seekers in a pre-dawn raid by police. About 50 more Russian Jews face expulsion after being denied asylum in the Netherlands, ANP quoted a justice ministry spokesman as saying. More applications have yet to be processed. The latest group, included three children, was among 200 Jews seeking asylum.

4 killed, 13 wounded in clashes in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Four people, including a Turkish soldier, were killed and 13 were injured on Tuesday in two incidents in Turkey's rebel-hit southeast, eyewitnesses said. Clashes broke out between Kurds and security forces when several hundred people from the town of Lice in Diyarbakir province were stopped during a march to nearby Kilis town to protest the killing of 12 rebels. One civilian was killed and five others were wounded in the clash, witnesses said.

Bethlehem marks another Christmas under occupation

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Palestinians defied their leaders and closed their shops in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve to show the world that there is little peace on earth and goodwill to men under Israeli occupation.

Bethlehem's veteran Mayor Elias Freij fumed against local activists who ordered shopkeepers and restaurant owners to close so that world television cameras could not show that life was normal in Christ's traditional birthplace.

"These are ignorant people who do not respect the spirit of Christmas," Mr. Freij said in an interview in his office overlooking Manger Square.

Several hundred tourists and pilgrims filed through the low portal of the Church of the Nativity watched by hundreds of soldiers and police from adjoining rooftops.

The number of foreign visitors was much higher than last year when the Gulf crisis devastated tourism in the Holy Land although for Palestinians the day was as gloomy as ever.

The underground leadership of the uprising had allowed businesses to open for Christmas but local activists ordered a strike.

A few souvenir shops around Manger Square, one owned by

Gulf Arab leaders ponder defence and development fund

give non-Arab Iran, their most powerful neighbour, a more prominent political role without giving it to Iranian demands for direct involvement in their defence arrangements.

Officials said the heads of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states went into a closed session Tuesday to grapple with the difficult issues facing the oil-rich region in wake of the Gulf crisis.

GCC members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — which together own nearly half of the world's oil reserves — want to come up with a workable defence plan to reduce their reliance on foreign powers.

They are also under pressure to

East peace talks in Madrid and Washington, said hopes of a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict had eased that atmosphere in the town of which he has been mayor for 20 years.

Many residents disputed this, speaking of their sense of frustration at the continued heavy Israeli presence and restrictions on their lives even after Madrid.

"Nothing has changed," said Adel Asmar, 28. "In fact it is worse because we expected the peace conference to give us something."

Visitors were searched and had to pass through metal detectors to enter Manger Square and by the Church of the Nativity, revered as the site of Christ's birth.

The holiday officially began with the arrival of the Roman Catholic patriarch of the Holy Land, Archbishop Michel Sabah, who was led into the church by traditional Muslim guards wearing red fezzes.

In a ceremony that dates to Turkish rule over Palestine, Archbishop Sabah was greeted by the current Israeli rulers, represented by the military governor of Bethlehem, Elad Moshe, and other officials.

Some merchants said they ignored the call for a strike by local activists because of an ear-

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which so far has eluded the decade-old alliance — by the year 2000.

They are also likely to give the go-ahead for a \$10-billion development fund to channel funds to Arab allies hit by the Gulf crisis.

GCC states want to come up with a new mechanism for aid because of widespread belief much of the money they pumped into other Arab countries before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was wasted. Iraq was one of the main recipients.

The GCC rulers are expected to finalise a joint stand supporting the Middle East peace process and approve measures to create a Gulf common market — a goal

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Buckley's remains expected

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The remains of murdered Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) chief in Lebanon William Buckley are expected to be returned by his kidnappers soon, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The sources said they expected Mr. Buckley's corpse to be dumped in Beirut as happened on Sunday with the body of slain U.S. hostage William Higgins which was handed over to the U.S. embassy on Monday.

The release of the two bodies had been agreed by the kidnappers in talks with U.N. mediator Giandomenico Picco as a step towards winding up the nearly decade-long hostage saga, the sources said.

Diplomats said a U.N. report from New York said Mr. Picco was in Beirut on Monday when Mr. Higgins' partially-mummified corpse was identified as the result of a misdealing with U.N. headquarters.

"Picco was in Damascus when the announcement was made in New York," a Western diplomat said, adding that Mr. Picco had not made any breakthrough in his efforts to win the freedom of the last Western hostages in Lebanon, Germans Heimrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner.

"He was working on the Germans ... he is about to leave, apparently without a breakthrough on them," the diplomat said.

U.N. sources in Damascus confirmed Mr. Picco did not go to Beirut and said he was preparing to leave the Syrian capital Tuesday.

Hawkish minister quits Israeli coalition

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Hawkish cabinet minister Rafael Eitan, Israel's chief of staff during the 1982 Lebanon invasion, quit on Tuesday in a row over electoral reform.

Mr. Eitan said he was resigning as agriculture minister because Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir opposed a law for direct elections of the premier.

Mr. Eitan previously supported the electoral reform bill but announced his U-turn at a Likud party convention on Sunday.

Mr. Eitan read his resignation letter on army radio.

"Because imposing party discipline on part of the coalition on the law for electoral reform constitutes a violation of the (coalition) agreement... Tsomet is quitting the coalition and I resign from government," he said.

Mr. Eitan heads the two-strong extreme-right Tsomet (Crossroads) faction in parliament. But Mr. Shamir's coalition will still have a majority in parliament without him.

The 3,500-member Likud central committee overwhelmingly endorsed Mr. Shamir's opposition Monday by voting against electoral reform.

But Likud ministers were vague when asked if this meant Mr. Shamir would impose party discipline on the vote expected by the end of this month.

Mr. Eitan said he might reconsider his resignation if Mr. Shamir publicly declared that Likud parliamentarians could vote according to their conscience. His resignation will take effect next week.

Mr. Shamir's bureau chief Yossi Ahimeir said the prime minister was surprised at the resignation.

"There is no justification and they don't have any reason to leave the coalition," he told army radio.

Mr. Eitan, who once likened Palestinians to cockroaches, is more than most ministers in Mr. Shamir's government — the most right-wing in Israel's history.

He had previously threatened to quit if the government entered negotiations on territorial concessions or self-rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel has started peace talks with Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon whose central demand is that the Jewish state trade occupied land for peace.

Mr. Eitan was army chief of staff during the 1982 Lebanon invasion. He and the then defence minister, Ariel Sharon, engineered the operation which Israel said was aimed at driving Palestinians out of South Lebanon.

As agriculture minister he has campaigned for Israel to maintain control over the West Bank for its valuable water resources.

Mr. Eitan's move could encourage two other right-wing parties with swing votes to topple Mr. Shamir's government over the peace talks that they vigorously oppose.

Mr. Eitan stressed the motive for Tuesday's move was not the peace talks expected to resume next month in Washington.



REGENT RECEIVES PEACE DELEGATION

— His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday received at the Royal Court the head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, Abdol Salam Al Majali, and members of the delegation. Dr. Majali briefed Prince Hassan on

the latest developments of the talks which were held in Washington recently. Prince Hassan praised the delegation's untiring efforts for establishing a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region. The conference was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Aman Abu Odeh.

Abu Jaber: Peace needs change in thinking of Middle East countries

By Kirk Albrecht
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber has said in an interview that it is time for the nations of the Middle East to "break out of the straitjacket of ideology" in order to make peace.

Speaking to the USA Radio Network in Amman Sunday, Dr. Abu Jaber discussed the current frosty climate for peace.

"Our people — well, on both sides — they don't think except of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The housewives, taxi drivers, the doctor, the lawyer, the professor — everybody in our society is in one way or another a soldier dedicated to destruction, and I think it is time to change that."

The foreign minister said that there was a great cost involved in the decades-old conflict, noting that it is much more than merely physical.

"It is taking all of our energies... we can't continue doing that; it's not good for us,

and we're both becoming marginalised. There is so much beauty and energy in our cultures — it's such a waste."

Despite his sentiments, Dr. Abu Jaber was quick to point out Jordan's contention that the Israelis, particularly Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, remains intransigent, likening him to a Biblical prophet.

"Sometimes I listen to Mr. Shamir and I think he's a Biblical prophet rather than a politician... Elijah or Jonah or Amos thundering down prophecies. Everything he says is in absolute terms," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

He believes that the future will see an end to this absolutism, replaced by "neighbourly attitudes."

Jordan, Dr. Abu Jaber said, is a "pragmatic, practical, rational" state which is trying to play a major role in the current Middle East peace process.

"We hope we can bring some sense to this senseless region which has known nothing but war for a long time," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Underseizing His Majesty King Hussein's role in the peace process, Dr. Abu Jaber said:

"The tenacity and perseverance of this man to the cause of peace is unbelievable. His moderation and willingness to listen to others

is a breath of fresh air among world leaders. He believes that peace will get the area on the course to prosperity."

In spite of King Hussein's efforts, "Jordan can't make peace by itself," declared the foreign minister. "It has to be comprehensive peace that first and foremost addresses the national aspirations of the Palestinian people."

Dr. Abu Jaber spoke ardently of the emotional toll stemming from the conflict. "How much does it cost when a man is terrorised all his life? How much do you put on it, whether he is Israeli or Palestinian?"

Referring to common Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, Dr. Abu Jaber added, "When somebody's house is confiscated or demolished, or when he watches his tree pulled out of the ground and he can't do a thing about it, how much does it cost you on that?" Dr. Abu Jaber stressed that this is the kind of thinking very few in the international community engage in.

Dr. Abu Jaber spoke in hopeful terms of what can happen if a just peace, based on the principles of international law and legitimacy, is achieved in the Middle East. He believes that there is a great future for the whole area in an atmosphere of peace.

"This is one area of the world that can break the cycle of underdevelopment — we can do it. And by doing it we can help other people in the world."

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Chinese minister in Israel

BEIJING (Agencies) — China confirmed Tuesday that a senior Foreign Ministry official was in Israel, fuelling speculation that Beijing was poised to establish diplomatic relations with the Jewish state for the first time.

"Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang is paying a private visit to Israel as the guest of the China Travel Service in Tel Aviv," the ministry said.

The one-line statement gave no further explanation as to why Mr. Yang, believed to be the most senior Chinese to visit the Jewish state, was in Israel.

Last week President Yang Shangkun reassured Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Beijing of China's continued support for Palestinians and is believed to have briefed him of China's plans to set up ties with Israel.

Israel Radio said Mr. Yang had arrived on Monday. Israeli Television reported that Beijing had asked that the visit be kept secret but Foreign Minister David Levy made it public at a parliamentary committee meeting on Monday.

Mr. Yang's visit is the latest in a series of confidential contacts between Israel and China. Their foreign ministers met at the United Nations in October.

The United Nations, which has enforced a sweeping embargo since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August last year, has proposed that Baghdad be allowed to sell \$1.6 billion worth of oil under supervision to buy food and medicine.

Iraq, the world's second biggest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia before the Gulf crisis, has rejected the plan as an infringement of its sovereignty. It says it would be left with less than \$600 million after deducting war reparations and other debts.

Irqi and U.N. officials will begin talks in Vienna on Jan. 6 or 7 to discuss changes to the proposal, which expires in March.

Mr. Hiti said in addition to raising the ceiling for oil sales, Iraq would ask for longer-term contracts, approval to use its Al Bahr port terminal and a pipeline across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea, and freedom to barter instead of dealing in cash.

"It's better than 1.6," he said when asked whether he could live with the figure which was later downgraded in Security Council Resolution 706.

Mr. Hiti said, however, Iraq "would be hoping for more" in talks with U.N. officials in Vienna next month.

"Somewhere between \$1.6 (billion) and doubling it," he said.

He said apart from the basic amount, Iraq would need hundreds of millions of dollars more to import spare parts, chemicals and communications equipment to allow it to re-enter world markets.

First round in Washington in perspective

By Daoud Kattab

ONE OF THE mistakes in analysing the ongoing peace talks is to rate them on a day-to-day basis. Rather what is needed is a periodic evaluation perhaps on a monthly basis or even longer than that. For example both the Bush administration and senior members of the Palestinian negotiating team have decided on giving the present peace process until March to produce concrete tangible results. Nevertheless, the end of the first stage of bilateral talks in Washington is worthy of comment.

While on the surface the bilateral talks in Washington seem to have been fruitless some important accomplishment have been made despite the apparently useless "corridor diplomacy".

By and large the first session in Washington was an inevitable first step that both sides needed to take. It was a time for both sides to size up each other. Having both agreed on what will turn out to be a long and tedious negotiating structure it would have been surprising if any progress was made in those first few sessions.

For the Americans who are co-sponsoring these talks they needed to stay away to give the bilateral talks a chance to work. The U.S.

philosophy seems to be a non-loser. If the two sides can reach an agreement good; if they fail to find mutually acceptable concessions then the U.S.'s attempt to interfere/mediate/persuade will not be an unwanted intrusion but a necessity for the success of the talks.

In first two weeks of December the Arab-Israeli talks did not get much publicity. But two clear images were developed by the average American and for that matter anyone following the talks. The first image was that of the Arab side going to the talks regularly and on time without a hint of wanting to pull out. The Israelis on the other hand clearly left the opposition impression. They failed to show up on Dec. 4 as stipulated in the invitation and they were constantly talking about leaving.

The U.S. accommodated Israel to the extreme it did not allow photos of empty chairs, did not much condemn Israeli practices in the occupied territories and rescinded the Zionism-is-racism resolution during this period. But few believe that the last of the American positions has not been seen. No one expects that a small country like Israel rebuffing the invitation by the most powerful country on Earth will get

away with it for long. As the American saying goes he who laughs last laughs best. The U.S. undoubtedly prefers to make its fight over an issue of substance which the Bush administration knows it can win — something like the settlement issue.

Palestinian accomplishments in the Israeli circle are also not to be diminished. For 40 years Israelis have been told morning, afternoon and evening that the Arab World refuses to recognise its existence that there is no one to talk to and that the Palestinian statements recognising Israel was no more than a public relations ploy.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Now the Israeli public has seen the Arab countries and Palestinians willing to talk about peace with Israeli officials. Arab delegates showed up every scheduled day for talks on time and left when the sessions were over and made sure that a new date was set before breaking off the first Washington round of talks. It does not take much to get Israelis to realise that what they had been told by their leaders for so many years is just not holding up. Sure they are still sceptical. Some still think that the Arabs have discovered a new

publicity ploy. But with every day passing and after every meeting taking place it becomes more and more difficult to convince average Israelis that there is no one to talk to.

Israelis also will find their governments position on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to be rather hypocritical. They know that the PLO is playing a key role in these talks. They know that the head of the Palestinian delegation was the vice chairman of the first PLO conference. They know the extent of PLO loyalty among the delegates. They know that Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi met with the PLO on numerous occasions and that the Palestinian delegations is in constant touch with the PLO. They know that two PLO members Akram Hanan and Tayser Aruri are staying on the same floor of the hotel where the Palestinians were staying and that they are in constant meeting with the delegation. Furthermore, Israelis understand that the Palestinian nationalists are meeting with Peace Now Israelis but with representatives of one of the most hardline Israeli government. If Yitzhak Shamir's people meet with these PLO Palestinians then the PLO can't be that bad, many Israelis are arguing.

The changes that are taking place in American and

Israeli society are quite important. Many Palestinians however feel that the Palestinian leadership is not putting enough effort planning and execution in maximising the possibilities in these two important areas. By large Palestinian planning has been haphazard. This was the situation, in Washington. Plans prepared a month in advance of the delegation's arrival by expert Arab-American leaders were scrapped as the delegation was sometimes led by amateurs who wanted to take credit for organising this or that meeting irrespective of whether it was the best way to utilise the Palestinian delegation. Similarly Palestinian policies regarding how to win over the Israeli public have at best been unplanned and spontaneous. Palestinian strategists have indicated in recent days that unless the PLO and the Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories gives these issues their top priority progress on winning both the American and Israeli public will be slow and painful.

They suggest that special departments headed by senior leaders must be established to put up plans and work on executing them. Some are suggesting that such plans must be prepared for execution by the time the next round of talks begins in Washington on Jan. 7.

'Kidnap kingpin' reportedly in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — The reputed leader of the extremists who held scores of Westerners hostage in Lebanon has moved to Tehran, apparently for safety, after freeing the last of his captives, according to a knowledgeable Shiite source.

Imad Mugniyeh, already wanted by the United States for air piracy, left Lebanon for the Iranian capital some time before the Dec. 4 release of the last American hostage, journalist Terry Anderson, the source said.

The informant, who has close contacts with Shiite fundamentalists in Lebanon, spoke on condition of anonymity. His information has in the past been accurate.

Abdul Hadi Hamadi, leader of a Shiite clan allied to Mugniyeh which is believed to be holding the last two Western hostages, was also in Tehran recently but returned to Beirut, the source reported.

The Sunday Times of London Dec. 8 quoted Israeli intelligence sources as saying that 30 to 40 of the kidnappers had fled to Iran for protection and new identities.

The Shiite source could not confirm that. But he said that Mugniyeh, a 29-year-old Lebanese, moved his wife Saida, 28, and two children, Fatima, 7, and Mustafa, 4, to Tehran in September.

That was when the final phase of the hostage saga got underway with negotiations by U.N. mediator Giandomenico Picco to free the remaining captives in Lebanon.

The source said Mugniyeh's family appeared to be settling in for a long stay in the Iranian capital.

"The children have been installed in school," he noted.

Mugniyeh was for years chief of security with Lebanon's Hizbullah, the Iranian-backed fundamentalist faction considered the parent organisation for the hostage-holding groups.

Western intelligence officials say Mugniyeh heads Islamic Jihad, considered Hizbullah's strike arm and tightly linked with other kidnap groups.

Hungarian police hunt 2 after attack on emigres

BUDAPEST (Agencies) — Hungary tightened security along its borders on Tuesday in a hunt for two men suspected of bombing a coach carrying Soviet Jewish emigres in Budapest.

The 26 passengers on the coach were unharmed but two Hungarian policemen were seriously wounded by the remotely controlled car bomb on a road near Budapest airport on Monday.

Israeli Ambassador David Kraus, who warned that Israel would retaliate for the attack, visited the men in hospital on Tuesday.

Police said two dark-skinned men who left the scene of the explosion by car were being sought.

Identify checks on people leaving Hungary were stepped up at border crossings, intensifying delays caused by heavy Christmas traffic across central Europe.

Border guard spokesman Janos Zubek said crossing by road into Yugoslavia could take up to 15 hours and into Romania up to 20 hours.

The group of Soviet Jews had arrived in Budapest by train and were being driven to a secret transit camp to await a flight to Israel when the explosion happened.

It was the first such incident since Budapest became the main staging post for Jews leaving the Soviet Union after the Kremlin relaxed its emigration policy in 1989.

More than 100,000 Soviet Jews have passed through the Hungarian capital.

The U.S. State Department Monday condemned a pair of apparent terrorist attacks occurring in Budapest since last Thursday, including the attack on the bus.

He did not elaborate, but Iraqi officials have often said that the anti-Iraqi policies of the Security

Iraq says Washington plotting use of force

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq's foreign minister says President George Bush is plotting new military action against Baghdad and is sponsoring a coup attempt against President Saddam Hussein, according to documents circulated Monday.

In a letter to the United Nations, Ahmad Hussein Khudayer cited an Oct. 4 new conference by President Bush and a New York Times report of Dec. 11 to support his assertion that Washington is trying to foment a military coup.

The New York Times article said that the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff were reviewing to "prepare the United States for a situation in which key officers in Iraq's armed forces might request support from Washington in an attempt to seize power from President Saddam Hussein."

The article said two options were under consideration: One in which a coup attempt bogged down and U.S. assistance was requested, and another in which officers told Washington they were ready to launch a coup if they received U.S. military support.

Mr. Khudayer noted Mr. Bush's Oct. 4 statement that "I should like to see Saddam Hussein out of power so that we can normalise our relations with the Iraqi people."

Mr. Khudayer said these reports and statements are "indicative both of preparations for the use of armed force against Iraq and of incitement of members of the Iraqi armed forces to revolt against the existing authority."

"We nevertheless have confidence in our people and our armed forces and in their patriotism and fair-mindedness," he said.

He told the Security Council and the secretary-general that "silence in the face of such perverse policies" and a one-sided, anti-Iraqi attitude by U.N. officials "will have dire consequences for the United Nations."

He did not elaborate, but Iraqi officials have often said that the anti-Iraqi policies of the Security

Council have shown the developing nations that the United Nations has been converted into a tool of U.S. policy.

Kurds give 'last chance'

The Kurdish Front, an umbrella group for eight Kurdish parties, has decided to send a delegation to Baghdad in a "last bid" for compromise to end a painful economic blockade, according to a Kurdish official.

Dr. Kemal Fuad, the chief representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said in the northern Iraqi town of Shugla that the decision had been taken unanimously at a meeting held in nearby Khalifan on Sunday.

"We have decided to respond to the Iraqi request and send the coordination committee for the last time to Baghdad to go and see what Iraq is going to do about lifting the blockade," he said.

He said the delegation to be sent shortly "will not stay in Baghdad for more than a week this time." The coordination committee has unsuccessfully negotiated an end to the blockade several times in the past.

Iraq stopped sending food and fuel to Kurdish areas, suspended municipal services and halted wage payments to Kurdish civil servants in November. The steps have spurred acute fuel shortages with gasoline prices rising sharply.

Intermittent shelling and the economic blockade were generally seen as an Iraqi strategy to force the Kurds to make concessions on their demands in the deadlocked talks for autonomy.

If the Iraqi government lifts the blockade, Kurdish officials would consider resuming the negotiations, Dr. Fuad said.

The autonomy talks bogged down three months ago over the size and borders of a projected autonomous area.

Of 1.5 million Kurds who fled to Turkey and Iran after a failed rebellion in March, most were resettled by a U.S.-led Western force. However about 500,000 unable to return to towns under Iraqi control still need shelter.

Iraqis grapple with daily life with little thought of Christmas

By Marrian M. Shahla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAGHDAD — "Celebrate? Celebrate what?" this was the response of Mansour, a 29-year-old Iraqi Christian, when asked how he would celebrate Christmas this year.

pointed out.

Through a government

food distribution system, every Iraqi family is assured of at least one week's supply of basic foodstuffs at the cost of 12 Iraqi dinars. A month's salary averages at 200 dinars.

The rest of family's diet

is to be bought on the open

market. The prices are too

high for the vast majority.

Extras, garnishings and even

basic foodstuffs such as a kilo

of meat, once a week, are not

easily attainable for most

people.

The new merchant classes and war profiteers enjoy the fruits of their efforts at home and at large hotels, where Christmas bazaars and fashion shows sent shock waves through many parts of Baghdad.

A member of President Saddam Hussein's family looked on with disapproval as he saw many wealthy Iraqis enjoying the holiday activities at the "famous" Rashid Hotel.

"Those who see this would think there were no sanctions on Iraq, they would think the people were not suffering," he said.

Indeed to outside observers Baghdad looks gloomy but not defeated. Only in the homes and in private conversations do Iraqis "let go" and speak their minds.

The stifling economic situation at home, the lack of public freedom and above all inability of the West to show any sign of mercy on the people have embittered many people to the core.

"Let them spend, let them live," said Mona, 37, of the rich Iraqis at the hotel. "Tomorrow may never

come."

"For us life is a carousel, it goes up and down," Mona explained. "When we were well off, there were a lot of restrictions on imports. Our stores were very bare. Today we have no money but our stores are full. That is very family."

While basic items are barely attainable, average Iraqi private merchants, who have been given a green light by the Baghdad government, are busy importing vast quantities of foodstuffs, and luxury items, mostly alcohol and cigarettes.

Those who have friends or relatives abroad are getting vital medicines, but the average Iraqis who suffer from relatively mild diseases like diabetes or epilepsy are not able to get their badly needed medicines.

Heart and cancer patients are dependent on the goodwill of charitable and relief organisations.

The U.N. decision to defer discussions on the lifting of sanctions for another two months came just in time for Christmas.

The growing percentage of poor are still eating, eating what is another question. The rich are getting visibly richer and for those who say that the sanctions will go, they may even be a long wait in store.

It may even be, as one European relief organiser put it, "the U.N. and Mr. Bush will have some rich people left in Iraq if the sanctions are prolonged for a long time. They will have some rich people and over 17 million people that are just shadaw."

fied, the report could not be accepted.

Consequently, China was to be told the report could only be approved by agreement from all 15 council members.

The key issue between the two sides, which has led to several months' delay in implementing the plan, is who should be allowed to take part in the referendum.

This is complicated by the multi-ethnic nature of Western Saharan society and the ebb and flow of people across borders.

Under the U.N. plan, an identification commission has been working on the basis of a 1974 Spanish census which counted more than 73,000 inhabitants.

The disputed report recommends voting be extended to those who have a father born in the territory and those who had intermittent residence of 12 years prior to Dec. 1, 1974.

Polisario accused Morocco of bringing thousands of supporters into the territory to stack the vote and it regards the new guidelines as favouring Rabat.

In a statement Polisario said that if the recommendations were adopted they would bring "the definitive burial of the peace plan and total failure to the United Nations in its decolonisation work in the Western Saharan."

The commission has been updating the census by taking account of births, deaths and population movements.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 631101
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 630349
Rescue Police 152, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 591228
Blood Bank 775121
Emergency Police 634302
Police Information Department 630390
Hotel Complaints 630300
Police Complaints 631176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 637467
Amman Municipality 6342816
Complaints 767111
Taxis 7751013
Taxis, Minibus 6301113
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repair 623101
Al-Jadeed Telephone Repairs 661101
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09593322
Zarqa National Hospital 09590156
Ibn Sina Hospital 09596732
Al-Hikma Medical Hospital 09590590
Water Supply 637561

Electric Power Company 636381
RI Flygt International 06-32200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-32200

AQABA: Princess Hayya Hospital 09314111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hashemite Medical Centre 6313613/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann 6442816
Al-Khaleej Maternity, J. Ann 6424412
Jahra Maternity 642382
University Hospital 630174
Shmeisani Hospital 6691151
University Hospital 645945
Al-Mansour

Archbishop of Canterbury to pay 2-day visit to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey will pay a two-day official visit to Jordan on Jan. 3 during which he will meet with government and church officials.

The archbishop, who is expected to be accompanied by his wife and other church officials, will be inspecting a number of institutions in Jordan. These include a school for the deaf in Salt, the Schneller Vocational School at Marka, Al Ahliyah Girls School and the Bishop School in Amman.

The archbishop will be going to Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories from Amman on an inspection tour of schools and hospitals run by church and charitable institutions in Gaza, Nablus, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Nazareth and Haifa.

According to a press release by the Episcopal Church here, the archbishop's discussions and tours are aimed at promoting the peace process and justice in the Holy Land and the Middle East region.

It said that the visit is also considered as the archbishop's pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jerusalem.

The archbishop will be going to Jerusalem and the occupied Arab



DIPLOMATIC MISSION "COCKTAIL RECEPTION" — The Amman Marriott Hotel held its annual Diplomatic Cocktail Reception on December 8th, 1991. Approximately 300 members from the diplomatic mission in Amman attended the reception. Francis Keenan, the general manager of the Amman Marriott, and the Marriott team thanked their guests from the diplomatic mission for their support and cooperation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art and ornamentation exhibition by Sabah Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Junana Al Husseini at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Salam Jamil Al Nouri at Alia Art Gallery.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Influence of the Intifada on the Contemporary Palestinian Political Thought" by Faisal Mousawi at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6 p.m.

POETRY

- ★ Poetry recital by Munira Mishak at the Phoenix Art and Culture Gallery — 6 p.m.

Jordan explains its stand

(Continued from page 1)

adopt such a confidence-building measure. Voting for the repeal of U.N. General Assembly Resolution 3379 could have been another such measure; but in the participation of both parties out central to the concept of negotiations?

The question relevant to the survival of the Palestinian people, and therefore the Arab states negotiating with Israel, is not whether Zionism is a racist philosophy, but whether Israel as a state exercises policies based on racial or religious discrimination. The facts on the ground point to continuous oppression of Palestinians in respect of personal and political rights, the allocation of resources, and the fundamental question of identity. Israeli construction of settlements in the occupied territories continues unabated, alongside the unending confiscation of land.

These measures, accompanied by a fresh crackdown on Palestinian

territories, violate both international law and the democratic principle of non-discrimination. For Jordan's part, therefore, the status of Zionism as a political or cultural philosophy is not at issue; the policies of the state of Israel are.

Jordan believes in the need for joint answer to the challenges of the region, answers based on true peace-making. Jean Monnet, the founding father of European integration, contrasted two models of negotiations. In a conventional model, the sides face each other across the negotiating table. But in a true peace-making process, all parties are on the same side, facing together their common challenge on the other side of the table. In the context of ongoing substantive peace negotiations, an end to the Israeli policies self-avowedly based on criteria of race and religion would greatly ease in transition from the conventional, unproductive, model of negotiations, to a true peace-making process.

Bethlehem marks another Christmas

(Continued from page 1)

feared, without hatred and without quarreling."

"The message of Bethlehem is peace on earth... we pray and hope that next year there will be peace in the Middle East," he said.

Scores of tour buses began arriving shortly after 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) in Manger Square, and lines formed in the Church of the Nativity, as pilgrims awaited to go down into the grotto where tradition holds Christ was born.

Mr. Freij issued a Christmas statement urging a peace where Jews and Arabs can live "without

hostile acts."

His leaflet from uprising leaders urging them to open, as well as similar advice by Mayor Freij.

"Some called for a strike, some called for us to open. Mayor Freij said yes, we should open... so we are open," said Joseph Tabash, owner of a souvenir store.

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hostile acts."

Gulf Arab leaders ponder defence

(Continued from page 1)

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EXCEPTIONAL STARGAZER — Jordanian astronomer Abdul Rahim Bader was honoured Monday by the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (AHSF) and the Jordanian Amateur Astronomers Society (JAAS) for his efforts in the field of astronomy and his part in the establishment of the Jordanian society. AHSF Board Chairman Abdul Majid Shoman delivered the key address at the

ceremony, paying tribute to the endeavours of Dr. Bader and his pioneering work in the field in the Kingdom. Society member Khalil Qumsal made a speech outlining the works and writings of Dr. Bader, focusing on his education and his skills. The AHSF director, Asaad Abdul Rahman, announced that the foundation was making an annual financial contribution to the society to promote its work and its efforts in Jordan.

Minister inaugurates new mosque

IRBID (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi Tuesday inaugurated the Al Faifa mosque, located in an old Irbid parking complex.

Sheikh Khatib conveyed the greetings of King Hussein to the audience and said that building the mosques is one of the greatest works Muslims do. He noted that the building of mosques has far-reaching effects on Muslims and contributes to spreading the message of Islam.

He pointed out that mosques are extremely important because they graduated the Muslim scholars and ulamas who raise the banner of Islam.

The minister stressed that mosques have a major role in



Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi unifying Muslim ranks, saying that they served as centres of intellectual, cultural and social radiation. He thanked Al Faifa Charitable Society for building the mosque.

Hamdi Tabbaa's chairman of the Faifa Charitable Society, thanked the Awqaf minister for inaugurating the mosque on His Majesty's behalf and thanked Irbid municipality for donating the plot of land on which the mosque was built.

The mosque was built on a 2,700-square-metre area, at a cost of JD650,000. It includes a library, a sharia school, with six classrooms, a residence for the imam of the mosque and an office for the society. The mosque can accommodate up to 2,000 worshippers.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Irbid governor, a number of deputies from Irbid, the chairman of the Irbid Municipal Committee and a number of government officials in the governorate.

Artist uses mixture of colours to achieve special effect

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Sabah Hadidi's art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) is proof that an artist can master several types of art and maintain a special trademark in each.

Mr. Hadidi has done just that in painting, pottery design, painting on cloth and even furniture. Painting is the one area where he has become most involved, especially with the mixing of colours.

"I don't just mix colours in the usual way. I make them from natural products and use chemicals to create the stable forms I want. I use different bases to get water colours or oil colours," Mr. Hadidi said, adding that he studied the chemistry of colours for one year.

The colours used are surprisingly vivid with blues, purples and intense pinks, to name a few examples of shades that are totally unexpected when

referring to colours made up of sand and other natural products."

The paintings are attention-grabbing from the angle of subjects drawn because there is more to each painting than meets the eye.

ART REVIEW

The observer can look at one of these works and see a typical painting of scenery with its distant mountains and various shades of sand, but on further analysis realise that the landscaping is really a human body and the contours are body parts.

The other forms of art include a great degree of taste. Mr. Hadidi combines the pottery and the cloth designs to make matching sets with similar colours and designs on both.

Much like most of his works,

Mr. Hadidi's pottery is not the typical clay base with the polished surface and painted design. The pots he uses are made of glass and then covered with a solid base colour before a final Islamic-type design is placed on it. The designs with typical squared off edges are in deep contrast with the curved pots they are on and give the work a special characteristic.

The furniture section of the exhibition includes tables and mirrors which are carefully painted with a solid base colour and vivid designs. The designs are mainly geometric, but the choice of bright colours to complement each other is where the talents lies.

The colours used are reminiscent of poster colours with their fluorescent hues, but the designs are so delicate that the brightness adds to the work rather than makes it seem harsh.

The exhibition will continue until Dec. 30.

Jordanian contributes to new way of treating cancer

ing to the statement.

In 1989, he joined the School of Medicine, Department of Pathology and Immunology, at Boston University in Massachusetts, U.S. The school is considered one of the leading schools in the field of immunology in the United States, according to the statement.

A team of researchers which included Mr. Khairi discovered a new way of treating cancer, according to a report in the American Journal of Immunology.

The new technique involves by means of heat shocking. The process, initiated through chemical reactions, requires the active participation of the target cell in the initiation of its own DNA fragmentation, according to the report.

The study could have a major implication in the treatment of cancers of hematopoietic origin through heat shocking, according to the GUVS statement.

Teahran made no official comment on Tuesday but Iranian newspapers saw little in the summit to cheer about.

The hardline Jomhuri Islami

said GCC states could improve ties with Iran by first apologising for their backing of Iraq in the 1980-88 war.

Pointing to Gulf Arab states' separate defence pacts with the United States, Britain and France, the English-language Kayhan International said even if asked, Iran was unlikely to "join any configuration which includes alien powers."

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Jordan Times

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Think differently

IT APPEARS that the ongoing Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in Kuwait is being guided by old illusions that belong to bygone eras. With security arrangements and the formation of huge armies heading the list of issues on the agenda of the GCC meeting in Kuwait, the leaders of these six Arab countries give the unfortunate impression that the message and implications of the new world order have yet to dawn on them. Surely it must have soaked in the minds of the Arab Gulf states that in the wake of the Gulf crisis the probability of any state invading another has become so remote; that this is one of the main pillars of the new order. That does not suggest that the Gulf states should lay down their arms or delete any reference to their defence needs. Rather they need not exaggerate such issues at the expense of other pressing needs, notably the development of democratic institutions in their midst and the expansion of their economic cooperation to reach other Arab states which are less endowed.

Furthermore, if we recall that the post-World War I era had established a new order on the edifice of the League of Nations and that the post-World War II had ushered in the second new world order based on the United Nations system, surely the post-Gulf crisis, which coincided with the defeat and dismantling of the communist world, can be regarded as the beginning of a new international order characterised less by security concerns and more by economic confrontations among economic giants and blocs. Granted that the rise of nationalism especially in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union can be the harbinger of more nationalistic eruptions on a global scale and, therefore, would call for suitable security arrangements, still the actuaction of security objectives at the expense of other lofty endeavours and goals is shortsighted.

Instead of just looking inward, the GCC leaders should be also thinking in terms of strengthening the Arab League as the best and most potent answer that the Arab World can offer in the face of the new challenges that the new international order has created. At a time when the EC countries are thinking in terms of expanding their unity to comprise Eastern Europe as well, the GCC summiteers should elevate their horizons and reach out for a much more enlightened regional institutions comprising the Arab states in the Middle East and beyond.

Unless the Arabs, rich and poor, think and act as a collective entity vis-a-vis the emerging new world order, they will ultimately find themselves marginalised and further divided as had happened to them in post-World War I and II. With their wealth and with the importance of their region the Arabs should aim at a stronger place in whatever world organisation is going to be constructed, be it the existing U.N. or otherwise. This is far more important than thinking in terms of limited regional alliances or protection provided by foreign powers.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NO ONE with common sense can expect the world community to reward Israel for its aggression and condone its occupation of Arab land, and no Arab citizen can be pleased with America's appeasement of Israel and its condoning of the Jewish state's actions at the negotiations and in the occupied Arab territories, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper said that the U.S. has a serious moral responsibility towards world peace in general and a commitment to end the Arab-Israeli conflict to ensure security and peace in the Middle East in particular. This, said the paper, can be best achieved by forcing Israel to stop its manoeuvres and by starting practical steps aimed at ending its occupation of Arab lands in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. No one can be satisfied to see the United States adopting a passive attitude vis-a-vis the Israeli actions in the occupied lands and intransigence at the negotiations, the paper continued. It said that Washington should take prompt action now, particularly in light of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's latest statement that the Israeli negotiators are instructed to talk about reaching peace with the Arabs without conceding any land occupied by Israel, the paper said. It said that Washington is called on to take practical steps to ensure real peace and security, otherwise the whole peace process will continue to revolve in a vicious circle.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the public has the right to know the facts about the peace negotiations, their prospects and the efforts needed to achieve peace. Tamer Al Udwani said the negotiations are not a bed of roses or a surgical operation conducted by the negotiators, the two sides bet on Washington's will and its desire to achieve peace for the Middle East region, said the writer. There is no need for excessive optimism, like that which is manifested by a number of officials, because the negotiations process in Washington is not going well at all because of the Israeli intransigence and lack of will, on the part of the United States, to give momentum to the process, he said. The writer said Jordan is participating in the peace process because it indeed desires to have peace and end Israel's occupation of Arab land and also because of pressure from the Arab and the international community and in light of the difficult situation in the country, said the writer. But, he said, it is unreasonable to think that we have control over the process or to fool ourselves by saying that the peace process is guaranteed to achieve peace for the region. It is only fair to let people know and realise the fact that nothing is assured and that the Arab demands for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions can not be guaranteed not only because of Israel's intransigence and the lack of will on the part of the U.S. to force it to comply with the requirements of peace, but also in view of the fact that the Israelis and the Americans are both involved in elections in 1992, at a time when the world is witnessing fast-moving developments and serious changes which distract people's attention from the plight of the oppressed people in the occupied territories, the writer added. He said that the Middle East is nearer to war than to peace and the Arabs have to take this point into consideration as Israel's evil intentions are growing and its ambitions are increasing all the time.

Economic Forum

Composition not consumption matters

IT IS right to talk about economic disequilibria in terms of budget, trade, current account and international payments deficits. But it is not correct to talk about the "consumption deficit," that is meaningful.

Another term used to describe these disequilibria is "gap." Thus we can say budget, trade and balance of payment gaps. When it comes to consumption, an economist should talk about a saving gap, not a consumption deficit or disequilibrium.

With the budget, the trade balance, the current account and the balance of payments we have well-known credit and debit items and hence there are gaps. With consumption, there is no such thing, as a gap. But there is a saving gap which refers to the state where available savings fall short of investments, both ex post (actual) or ex ante (planned). If we have adequate savings to finance the required investments it will be foolish to worry about a high level of consumption.

Consumption in the context of policy objectives is such a unique variable. Economics is defined as the science that deals with using economic resources to satisfy the human needs. It follows that consumption is an end in itself. The good justification for restraining consumption is only to boost it later on. Thus constraining consumption is a temporary measure and must only

be applied in this sense. Economic policies which lead to a continuous state of suppressing consumption form examples of outright failure. Saving itself is nothing else than postponed consumption.

And there is more to that. If the produce of farms in the Jordan Valley, the output of factories in Ma'an and the services of hotels in Aqaba were not consumed by Jordanians, these economic units will close down. Consuming their products generates income for their owners and labourers. The less is the consumption, the less is the generated income. And here lies the uniqueness of consumption, in the sense that it is largely the counterpart of income or the other side of the coin.

But this virtuous relationship works as long as what the Jordanians consume is produced in Jordan. When they consume imported goods and services, Jordanians generate income to pay foreigners for these imports. Buying imported American goods means creating incomes and jobs for American entrepreneurs and workers. Imports are the deepest black hole that devours national income.

It thus follows that there are two types of consumption: one related to domestic products and the second to imports. The first type is productive and therefore need not be discouraged. The

second constrains economic growth and thereby economic development.

The central issue in the management of economic development in the context of consumption is how to boost savings not how to constrain consumption. Curtailing consumption need not necessarily improve savings. Consumption may drop down while savings also plunge rather than rise. This is bound to happen when the drop in consumption is outweighed by a drop in imports which will depress the national income. And when the national income rises, both consumption and savings go up simultaneously.

Thus the crucial formula is to divert more consumption to domestically-produced goods and services. In this case, more consumption means more income and can mean more savings. It actually must mean higher savings except in the very uncommon case where there is a great deal of pent up demand in the national economy. In other words, consumption here does not materialise or increase at the expense of savings.

A higher level of consumption satisfied from domestic production is unquestionably better than a lower level of consumption with a greater import content. It is the composition of consumption which really matters not its level.

For Israel the Zionism vote has a dark lining

By Paul Lewis

The United Nations last week repealed its 1975 resolution defining Zionism as "a form of racism and racial discrimination," but the Israelis on hand for the General Assembly vote were hardly euphoric. Israel's Foreign Minister, David Levy, managed a smile as delegates rushed to shake his hand. But another Israeli official sourly told a well-wisher: "Some people are going to regret this in a year's time."

Mr. Levy said the repeal had removed "a terrible stain" on the United Nations' record, and American Jewish groups welcomed it as the righting of a wrong done to Israel in the course of the cold war, when the Soviet Union and the United Nations' Third World majority used the organisation as a platform for attacking democracy, capitalism and Western policy in general.

But the Israeli government was noticeably unenthusiastic when Vice President Dan Quayle first called for repeal two years ago —

fearing the price America might

ask — although it did warn to the idea when President Bush embraced it earlier this year.

The United Nations finally put behind it the last major vestige from an era of sterile confrontation, a defamation disguised as diplomacy," said B'nai B'rith's international director, Harris O. Schoengerg. The World Jewish Congress called the vote a "victory for decency."

But when the United States and its Western allies had gone lobbying for repeal among sceptical Third World nations, the argument they used was not just that repeal would correct an injustice that implicitly denied Israel's right to exist. They also insisted it would help the Middle East peace process — and in ways not necessarily to the present Israeli government's liking.

The representative of a major European said the argument was put this way: "You're not doing this to help George Bush make peace."

The United States had, in fact, annoyed many United Nations

members by cutting the organisation out of the peace negotiations at Israel's insistence. Now

Washington's representatives could argue that repeal would weaken Israel's desire for the United Nations, allowing it to play a larger role in implementing whatever settlement may be reached — in aiding returning refugees, for example, or in dividing up water resources. It was also argued that repeal might encourage Israel to take a less jaundiced view of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which envision an Arab-Israeli peace in which Israel would exchange occupied Arab lands for Arab acceptance of Israel's right to exist within secure boundaries.

"Repeal helps Israel feel like a normal United Nations member and cooperate with resolutions that will be the basis of any settlement," said Judith Kiper, a Middle East expert at the Brookings Institution.

Israel's spurning of these resolutions, claiming it has already swapped land for peace by giving

Sierra back to Egypt a decade ago, has become an added embarrassment to its friends since the Gulf war, in which the Security Council condoned war with Saddam Hussein precisely because he refused to give up Kuwait.

But for America's European and other allies the main benefit of repeal is their belief that it will strengthen President Bush hand in fending off the pro-Israel lobby in the United States during next year's election campaign and will thus enable him to maintain pressure on Israel to cut a deal with its Arab neighbours.

The timing of America's appeal upset many Muslim countries, which thought the United States had agreed to postpone the issue until the peace talks made more progress.

A shield

American officials say the United States sought repeal now because it had the votes to win. But many experts think it did so in part to deflect criticism of President Bush's recent decision

to delay guaranteeing Israeli loans for resettling Soviet Jewish refugees and to shield the President against further charges of harshness next year. "He is buying time for the negotiations and this was his domestic aim," says Seymour Reich, a past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations.

Richard E. Murphy, a former Assistant Secretary of State who is now at the Council on Foreign Relations, said "Repeal mainly helps Bush's standing with the American Jewish community, which feels he is too tough on Israel." And William B. Quandt of the Brookings Institution, who as an aide to President Carter helped negotiate the Camp David land-for-peace accord between Egypt and Israel, commented: "Bush wants Israel to feel less isolated. He also doesn't want to be accused of being anti-Israel across the board."

To an extent, American Jewish organisation helped President Bush give himself this shield by showing greater enthusiasm for repeal than did Israel's government. Meanwhile, the belief that repealing the Zionism-equals-racism resolution would advance the Middle East peace talks has yielded unexpected dividends for both Israel and the United States. Just before the crucial vote, American diplomats were predicting that at most 102 countries would vote in favour, with up to 30 against. In fact, the outcome showed a bigger margin for repeal and the Arabs divided. With 111 countries voting in favour, there were only 25 against, with 13 abstentions and 17 refusing to vote at all, including six Arab nations — Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, Morocco, Tunisia and Oman. — The New York Times

LETTERS

Always at your service

To the Editor:

I refer to the letter to the editor "Wingless Hornet" published in the Jordan Times, Dec. 23, in which he complained about delays, of up to six months, in receiving mail sent here from Europe and I would like to point out the following:

In principle, we are always careful to take into consideration any complaint sent to us.

As to the complaint in question, the director of postal services has paid a visit to the company employing Mr. Craig as manager, who incidentally was not there, and realised the complaint was related to incoming surface mail.

In this respect, we would like to emphasize that the responsibility for the surface mail lies with the sender. Jordan's responsibility begins from the moment the dispatched item reaches Jordanian territory. Jordan is also responsible to ensure the dispatch of mail originating from Jordan to its destination abroad.

In this connection, we would like to reassure Mr. Craig that the postal services in Jordan send all the outgoing mail by air mail, including mail for which it charges rates for surface mail. We would like to also point out that the Jordanian postal services send through air mail more than 75 mail dispatches on a daily basis and that the Jordanian foreign postal network is considered as one of the widest networks in the Middle East region. Its performance is recognised by the Universal Postal Union as among the best worldwide.

Though we did not discover any delayed mail destined to Mr. Craig, we admit that his complaint about the delays in the arrival of surface mail to Jordan is justified, especially dispatches sent before and during the Gulf crisis. We would like to point out here that Jordan continues to demand that has been delayed for over months after lying idle in the ports of countries where this mail originated, or at sea.

As we have already pointed out, the delays in these cases lie partly with the countries of origin and partly are due to the very severe circumstances in this region recently.

The Post and Postal Savings Public Corporation would like to assure all citizens that the Jordanian postal services spare no effort in promptly distributing all incoming mail as soon as it reaches Jordan. We can assure you that no delays in the distribution happen here, except when in cases of wrong addresses.

We would like to express appreciation to Mr. Craig for his remarks and for allowing us to fully explain the Jordanian postal services' responsibilities. We would like to urge Mr. Craig to arrange for his mail to be sent by air to ensure no delays.

Dr. Abdallah Al Jazi

Post and Postal Savings Public Corporation Director

She deserves better

To the Editor:

I read time and again Norma's letter addressed to the editor and published on Dec. 17. I tried hard to call it constructive criticism, but I failed.

We have here a case study of a young and promising reporter trying hard to serve our country and our king.

One would naturally expect constructive guiding criticism. One would hope under the circumstances for a little support and encouragement. But venomous criticism hits beneath the intellect.

It is sad that the reviewer did not find it in her to review the efforts of the reporter in a civilised manner.

Wael Attar, Amman - Jordan

Discipline — it begins with parents

By Jane E. Brody

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Few chores of child-rearing are more frustrating or fraught with emotional conflict than discipline. Some researchers believe they know why: Discipline is being applied to children when it should first be applied to their parents.

The recent findings suggest that most parents, even those who themselves were subjected to harsh discipline, can, with a little help, do a much better job with their own children. These findings, for example, have come out of the studies:

— Simple self-help techniques, with or without professional support, can help parents sharply reduce discipline problems.

Effective discipline requires parents to be sensitive to their children's needs. Children do not respond positively to discipline unless they feel loved and wanted.

— Praise and love alone are not enough. Too much permissiveness hurts a child's efforts to develop self-control.

— Behaviour problems should be reversed early, waiting until the pre-teen years diminishes chances for success and increases the risk of delinquency and other problems.

— Spanking is not only ineffective, it may erode the child's self-esteem and the parent-child relationship, leading to more problems.

Studies among hun-

dreds of families at the University of Washington School of Nursing have shown that "parents need to learn as many tricks of the trade as possible, including how to play with their children, communicate with them, praise and reward them and set limits for them, as well as how to handle misbehaviour using a variety of techniques," according to Dr. Webster-Stratton, director of the Parenting Clinic there.

The Seattle studies have also shown that instructional videotapes that demonstrate right and wrong ways of handling behaviour problems can teach parents to induce major improvements in the behaviour of their difficult children.

Studies of babies and toddlers directed by Dr. Everett Waters, a psychology professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, also showed that young children were more responsive to parental discipline if they could form a secure attachment to the parent.

The child must perceive the parent as "available, responsive, sensitive — sensitive to the baby's signals and able to respond appropriately and in a timely manner," he explained.

Describing classroom experiments, she said: "If the teacher waits too long and lets things build up, a real problem can develop. But if the teacher intervenes right away, things go smoothly. The same is true of parents of 2-year-olds." — International Herald Tribune (New York Times Service).



M. Kahil

Weekender

Wednesday Dec. 25, 1991 A

Greenland Santa Centre seeks tourist cash, fuels Nordic row

By Tim Pearce

Reuter

COPENHAGEN — Greenland is promoting itself as the "real home" of Santa Claus in a bid to pull in sleds-full of tourist cash.

The Rudolf The Red-Nosed Reindeer Restaurant has just opened in Greenland's capital, Nuuk, in the first stage of a Christmas entertainment centre that Greenlanders hope will bring tourists flocking.

The new centre seems certain to fuel a simmering row between the normally consensus-loving Scandinavians over which part of their northern lands is Santa's home.

Sweden, Norway and Finnish Lapland already have money-spinning Christmas

centres trading on the image of the jolly, white-bearded old man in red cloak and hat who brings children Christmas presents on his reindeer-drawn sled.

Greenland businessmen and the government are putting \$2 million into their Santa Claus Workshop Centre, which is being developed on a 1,000 square metre (10,760 square feet) site at a disused shipyard.

The foundation hopes to earn some \$20 million a year when the centre is finished, bringing in visitors on charter flights, mainly from North America and Japan.

The revenue and the jobs the centre will provide are badly needed by icebound Greenland. The world's

land Foundation.

By Christmas next year, the centre will be complete, with year-round arts and crafts stalls, exhibitions on Greenland's nature and wildlife, and sleigh rides with real reindeer among the attractions, a foundation official said.

Greenland also expects the Santa Centre to increase the flow of letters it receives from children all over the world addressed to Father Christmas, C/O The North Pole, Greenland.

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The revenue and the jobs the centre will provide are badly needed by icebound Greenland. The world's

Council prime ministers in Iceland last year when Greenland's then prime minister, Jonathan Motzfeldt, accused Finland of stealing Santa.

Greenland also expects the Santa Centre to increase the flow of letters it receives from children all over the world addressed to Father Christmas, C/O The North Pole, Greenland.

The post office receives 30,000 letters a year, and replies to each one in English, Danish and Eskimo with a Christmas message and a small gift.

The Santa controversy surfaced at a meeting of Nordic

workshop was inspired by Disney's cartoon films, which clearly state that the white-bearded figure lives at the North Pole, Greenland.

The Finns had taken the venerable gentleman from his age-old home at the North Pole in Greenland and moved him to a flat, forested part of Finland that had no connection with Christmas, said Mr. Motzfeldt.

Officials of the Santa Claus Foundation agree. "Everyone knows Santa Claus comes from Greenland — Walt Disney said so," said Marketing Director Preben Larsen.

"The concept of Santa's

Larsen, in an acid reference to the difficulty of the Finnish language.

Hostility to Finland resurfaced at the Father Christmas World Congress in Copenhagen in July, where Santas from round the world joined forces to exclude the Rovaniemi interloper.

No less than 104 Santas from as far afield as Russia and Australia donned their red robes and white beards and tucked into traditional Danish Christmas fare.

"If Santa had to learn Finnish, he's never have time to fill children's stockings this Christmas," said Greenland's

As well as banning the Finnish Santa, they found time to put together an impromptu Euro-carol, a seasonal ditty combining snatches of traditional Christmas songs from half a dozen of the European Community countries.

Wherever he lives now, Santa's home in the icy north is far removed from his roots in the warmer climate of southern Turkey.

Santa's name is a corruption of Saint Nicholas, born in Antalya on the Mediterranean coast in the third century and for many years bishop of nearby Demre.

Cindy overshadows Santa as Swedish yuletide symbol

By Lars Foyen

Reuter

STOCKHOLM — It wouldn't be Christmas in Sweden without the omnipresent allure of a beauty in sexy lingerie.

For the fourth Christmas running, fashion retailer Hennes Mauritz (HM) is arousing hot emotions, with an underwear model smiling invitingly from thousands of huge billboards all over the country.

The 1991 Christmas lingerie girl is U.S. super model Cindy Crawford, known to the Swedes simply as Cindy.

Feminists steal Cindy posters just to burn them. Men take them home for comfort or as a student prank.

Police worry about how the posters affect traffic safety. Women worry about the effect on their men.

"Advertising always awakes positive and negative emotions and stealing is not uncommon, particularly if the ads depict underwear. The reaction this year has been particularly strong," said HM advertising Manager Joakim Gip.

The posters show Cindy posing against a neutral white background in a wide range of bras, knickers, nightwear and so-called "bodies," resembling bathing suits.

Police said the two towns worst hit by Cindy fever were Malmö in southernmost Sweden, where feminists were tearing her down, and the university town of Linköping, where thieves seemed to be thirsting for female beauty.

"I suspect Ms. Crawford is brightening up the walls of quite a few student dormitories here," said a Linköping Police spokesman.

The posters, which also adorn HM's markets in other parts of Scandinavia, Germany, Switzerland, England and the Netherlands, advertise prices ranging from \$6 for a pair of brief knickers to \$20 for a full "body."

Ms. Crawford is one of the best-paid models in the world. Ms. Gip declined to say how much she was paid for the posters because it was HM policy not to reveal advertising costs.

Ms. Gip said the contrast between a scantily clad beauty and the cold and dark of winter was sure to attract attention.

In Oslo in neighbouring Norway, a traffic commissioner argued that Cindy billboards along the highways were a traffic hazard.

Ms. Gip disagreed. "One professor said Cindy was more likely to sharpen the attention of dozy drivers than to distract them."

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The vacationers

By Maha Addasi

It is the season for all those students studying abroad to start pouring back home for the Christmas holidays. It is also the season for the parents of those students to armour themselves because the "children" they shall meet at the airport will only slightly resemble the kids they sent off to university only months before.

For example, these visiting children will not complain about the food and they will eat absolutely anything cooked at home without any problem whatsoever. Whereas the kids the parents said good-bye to at the beginning of last semester only picked at their food and had some items on their "menus" that they would not be caught in the same room with, let alone eat.

The discovery about the children's new food habits will be made at the first and possibly the last meal the kid will eat at home, seeing that each kid will already have formed a schedule with his or her friends and it will appear to be a matter of life-or-death if some "outsider," like a parent, for example, would as much as suggest that the schedule be more flexible.

If some flexibility is at all possible, the kid would, or even worse, the mother would suggest that the kid bring his or her friends to the house for meals. At which time your child will bring the "gang" of friends to your house for breakfast, brunch, lunch, snacks, and dinner. While the gang's mothers lie back grateful for a break, thinking that their kids must have gotten smart and found a friend who's a freshman and whose mother has no clue about the hectic timetable she will get.

If you are a parent of a freshman, I suggest you brighten up. If you want to see your kids at all the best time is while they are asleep in their beds.

Otherwise, you could stay up late waiting for the kids to wander in at some ungodly hour and give them a lecture on how worried you are and make it seem like the good old days when you always yelled when they come home late.

Actually, I would skip the lecture on being late because you wouldn't want them with a statement like "But I stayed out all the time when I was at the university and no one stayed up to lecture me." Then they would add that they were out "studying." Just so that you do not "misunderstand" them.

So all in all, you would want to ship the kids back to university, even before their holidays are over seeing that you would not see them anyway.

And because you feel that you are paying for an



aeroplane ticket so that your kids see their friends I suggest that you arrange the ticket so that your kid only transits in Jordan and leaves a few hours later back to the university. Eat that one meal you will get together at the airport.

That is what I would do if I were in your place. But I know your parents out there very well. The minute you see those little monsters' of yours at the airport again you get all mushy and you put up with more than you did in the previous vacation.

So to all you mushy parents. Merry Christmas and good luck for the New Year!

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Dec. 26

1827 — Turkey's Sultan Mohamud II rejects right of allies to mediate in war with Greece.

1901 — Completion of Uganda Railway from Mombassa to Lake Victoria.

1938 — Declaration of Peru against all foreign intervention is approved by Pan American Conference.

1941 — U.S. declares Manila an open city in the Philippines in World War II.

1961 — United Nations officials charge the Northern Rhodesia was aiding secessionist Congo province of Katanga in its fight against U.S. forces.

1962 — Eight refugees from deep inside east Germany escape to West Berlin by crashing bus through barriers at border checkpoint.

1971 — Sixteen U.S. veterans of Vietnam War seize Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour to dramatise their anti-war stand.

1977 — Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egypt's President Anwar Sadat conclude meeting at Ismailia, Egypt, without agreeing on Middle East issues.

1989 — Forces loyal to Communist government begin surrendering as videotape aired on Romanian television shows bloody bodies of exiled leader Nicolae Ceausescu and wife Elena.

1990 — King Michael returns to Romania after 43 years in exile, only to be deported again within 12 hours of his arrival.

Friday, Dec. 27

1927 — Joseph Stalin's faction wins at all-union congress in Soviet Union, and Leon Trotsky is expelled from Communist Party.

1944 — In World War II, Soviet forces surround Budapest; U.S. forces smash across German bulge in Belgium and relieve U.S. troops under siege at Bastogne.

1945 — Foreign ministers of Britain, United States and Soviet Union, meeting in Moscow, call for provisional democratic government in Korea.

1948 — Cardinal Mindszenty is arrested in Hungary.

1949 — The Netherlands'

Queen Juliana signs document granting Indonesia sovereignty after more than three centuries of Dutch rule.

1956 — United Nations fleet begins clearing Suez Canal after Suez War.

1964 — Congo government charges that officers from Algeria and United Arab Republic are leading Congolese rebels on Congo's north eastern border.

1969 — Libya, Sudan and United Arab Republic announce political, economic and military agreement in Tripoli.

1972 — Australia halts military aid to South Vietnam, ending its involvement in Vietnam War.

1975 — China releases Soviet helicopters that flew into Chinese territory.

1976 — At least 20 people die in fight between two groups of blacks in Cape Town, South Africa.

1987 — Ferocious gun battle erupts in crowded market in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, after suspected Tamil rebels fatally shoot policeman, and at least 25 people are reported killed.

1989 — U.S. soldiers blast rock music and news bulletins about Panama at Vatican embassy in Panama City in attempt to drive General Manuel Noriega from refuge there.

1990 — After being recalled days earlier, Iraq's ambassadors return to their posts calling for "serious and constructive dialogue" on Gulf crisis.

Saturday, Dec. 28

1917 — Bessarabia proclaims independence as Moldavian Republic.

1938 — Iraq severs relations with France.

1942 — Japanese planes bomb Calcutta, India, in World War II.

1948 — Premier Nokhrash Pasha of Egypt is assassinated.

1950 — Chinese forces cross 38th parallel in Korea.

1962 — United Nations troops engage in heavy fighting in Katanga.

1966 — China detonates its fifth Atomic bomb.

1968 — Israeli commandos raid Beirut Airport, destroying 13 aircraft.

1970 — Military court in Spain sentences six Basque separatists to death.

1974 — Guerrillas in Man-

agua, Nicaragua, invade Christmas party for U.S. ambassador, kill three guards and take several prominent Nicaraguans hostage.

1975 — Efforts are made to rescue 372 men trapped by coal mine explosion in north-eastern India. All 372 were killed.

1984 — Cambodian guerrillas counter-attack for fourth straight day despite withering artillery fire from Vietnamese occupying refugee camp along Thai-Cambodian border.

1986 — Excursion train lets off its 180 passengers in Tokyo, then plunges off a bridge, killing six people, most of them in a factory below.

1987 — Dozens of Palestinian teens appear before military courts in occupied West Bank charged with protests in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

1989 — Earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale kills at least 11 people in south eastern Australia.

1990 — Indian government opens talks with Sikh leaders on ending 7-year-old secessionist struggle in Punjab.

Sunday, Dec. 29

1921 — United States, France, Britain, Italy and Japan sign Washington treaty to limit naval armaments.

1933 — Premier Ion Duca of Romania is slain by iron guard, and George Tarasescu succeeds him.

1934 — Japan renounces Washington naval treaty limiting naval armaments.

1946 — German bombers, during World War II, inflict greatest damage of London, England, since great fire of 1666.

1962 — United Nations troops occupy Elizabethville, Katanga.

1965 — Independence for Bechuanaland is announced.

1973 — Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos ends his elected term and begins to rule on basis of a takeover decree.

1989 — Gulf Cooperation Council calls for international naval force to protect Gulf shipping against Iranian attacks.

1988 — Sudan rolls back huge price increases in face of general protest strike that cripples major cities in that nation.

By The Associated Press

Warbaby

By E. Yaghi

BAGHDAD — The dank icy room smelled like death and mold. Outside the wind howled and a boom of thunder split through the sound of wind and rain which beat fiercely against the small window of Maysoon's two room house. She sniffed, wiped her nose on the sleeve of her dress and stared out at the gray sky and gray buildings lit only by black hollow holes. She sat on a thin mat haphazardly thrown upon a bare cold cement floor. On her lap lay sleeping the ragged tiny infant figure of her only child, Warbaby, a boy. She gently rocked his emaciated frame with her legs and then worriedly looked down at his skeleton like body which was covered by a piece of skin tightly stretched over it. She sighed and said as she looked out the window again: "Where are you Khaled my husband? Are you dead or alive? Why did you leave me just when I needed you most? I've shed ten thousand tears in misery over you. Soon these tears will turn to blood because I've cried so much. Look at my life, Khaled, I don't know where it's going! Come and see your son before he dies. Warbaby was born in your absence and I swear that when he was born, I heard the echo of your voice in his first tear. Where are you? Are you dead or alive? Why did you desert us? The day you left for the army, it was raining just like today and I didn't stand in your way, but looked out the window after you'd gone and struggled for something to say. Where will I find comfort? Only God knows. The love that glowed in your eyes used to light my way, now there is no light. I feel like I'm a leaf upon the wind with no place to land."

She heard a knock of the door. Carefully she placed her swaddled bundle on the mat and patted him gently so he wouldn't wake up. He slept so little. His illness was wearing him out. Slowly she dragged herself to the door and looked out a small window built within it. She saw the worried face of her neighbour Reema. Quickly she unbolted the lock.

The two women embraced each other. Invitingly, Maysoon said, "Welcome, welcome Reema. Come in from the cold." Her friend entered. "Here, sit down by the baby, but be careful not to disturb him. He's had another bad night."

Her friend, an older woman, sat down. Isn't he any better? you look like you've had a hard night. Go and wash, comb your hair. I'll watch him for you. Do you need anything?"

"Yes, I need some life for my son. There's been little improvement in his health. I think I'm going to loose him too! How can I wash or comb my hair at a time like this?"

What am I going to do Reema? I have no one but you. My parents are dead, my husband's missing in action and now Warbaby's dying too. If this infant dies, then what is there left for me to live for? I've sold most of my wedding gold to let us survive. There is no hope left!" She collapsed beside her friend, her face contorted in deep lines of fret.

Reema grabbed Maysoon's hand, squeezed it for comfort and said, "Take it easy. Have faith and pray to God to save the life of your little son and return your husband to you. Look on the bright side. You're young, you have your life ahead of you. There must be no more such talk of death and dying!"

But Maysoon barely heard her friend and asked, "Why? Why is the world punishing us? What did poor women like us do? Reema, you've lost three children from the war plus your husband. How can you be so brave? Why doesn't the U.N. lift the sanctions? Medicine would save the baby's life!"

She searched for an answer in the sad eyes of her friend. Then her companion said, "Ah, my child. War teaches the coward bravery. As for now, it seems the world has forgotten us. Every country in the American-led coalition was so quick to attack but since they destroyed us and left us without any means of existence, they are deaf to our pleas for mercy. There is no justice in this life. What can we do but bear our burdens and go on with our lives? There is no escape from our fate but through dreams or death."

Maysoon complained, "I'm twenty years old and I've seen in my short life more pain than most people see in their entire lives. I have no money to support us, no education and no hope. Why did Khaled have to leave me? And what can I do about Warbaby? Why must he die too?"

She buried her face in her hands and began to sob. Crying was nothing new to her. She did it most of the day. Her whole body shook. Reema hugged her and tried to ease her pain. After a while, when Maysoon was calmer, her friend returned to her own dark house. Maysoon still sits and waits for her husband to return home, but in her heart, she knows the truth. She knows he's buried somewhere in the Kuwaiti desert, plowed under by the American-led forces during the Gulf war. He hardly had the chance to know his bride of a few months before he left for duty, he would never see his son and he lies almost forgotten but for the million tears Maysoon will yet shed for him. And as she looks at the starving figures of Warbaby, Maysoon thinks of all the other more fortunate children in the world. Where were those cards that were supposed to save lives of babies such as this? And where was the compassion of the civilised world?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 26

8:30 The Simpsons

Bart Simpson tries to imitate some of the stunts he sees on television. His father warns him against doing them.

9:00 News in English

9:10 NBA Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Red King, White Knight

The film is about the conservative wing of the KGB and its opposition to perestroika and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, because they think it will undermine USSR's Socialist system.

Monday, Dec. 30

8:30 Coach

Coach is annoyed when he knows that his friend, Christy, earns more money than he does, he believes that a man should earn more.

9:10 Shakespeare

Miss Lee, a television host, is found murdered in her hotel room after covering the baseball game. Jessica investigates.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Simon And Simon

A gambler disappears. His young daughter asks the Simon brothers to find him in time for Christmas.

10:30 Evening Shade

Emmy becomes upset when she learns that she is pregnant because she is about to run in the local elections.

9:10 Derrick

The circle closes on a retired electronics engineer, caught up in a game of industrial espionage.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Law And Order

Saturday, Dec. 28

8:30 America's Funniest

8:30 Hey Dad

Home Videos

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Life On The Land

A visit to the Island of Corfu and the sea around it.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Red King, White Knight

The film is about the conservative wing of the KGB and its opposition to perestroika and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, because they think it will undermine USSR's Socialist system.

Sunday, Dec. 29

8:30 Empty Nest

Carol does not approve of Jackie, her father

Putting the master to test

Rembrandt — The Master — And His Apprentices, now in Berlin

By Peter Hans Göpfert

BERLIN — It all started in 1967, when five leading art historians in Amsterdam launched the Rembrandt Research Project. This project has since proved to be a turning point in the study of this celebrated 17th century master. It has also sent shivers down the spines of many directors of the world's leading museums.

Armed with such advanced techniques as X-ray diagnostics, infrared reflectometry, and neutron radiography, and combining them with their considerable expertise, they went off and gave the world's "Rembrandts," in particular those with questionable authenticity, a closer look.

At the turn of this century, the scholarly consensus attributed about one thousand paintings to Rembrandt. By the time the Rembrandt Research Project will have concluded its work, this figure will presumably have dwindled to about 250 authentic works.

Even now, the "challenge round" continues to proceed, its pace undiminished. The figure, genus of Rembrandt itself, of course, remains uncontested. Thus, the director of the Berlin Gemäldegalerie

used the term "genius" with all due emphasis to describe the achievements of Rembrandt.

A huge exhibition now presents Rembrandt in light of this new knowledge. The aim is not to minimize his achievement but to recalibrate his stature among his contemporaries — who no longer need to stand in the shadow of this 17th century giant, a man who succeeding generations had endowed with super-human qualities.

The exhibition actually embraces several sub-exhibitions. First, there's one which has 46 authentic paintings by Rembrandt, an "untouchable," core Rembrandt. Then, there's a section with 12 paintings which, until recently, had been attributed to Rembrandt, but which have since been identified as the works of Rembrandt contemporaries, apprentices, or colleagues. They provide perspective and help outline the scientific reasoning behind these new attributions and the techniques and criteria applied.

Yet another exhibition presents a number of paintings where the identity of the artist is unchallenged, where the works belong either to workers in the Rembrandt workshop or to frequenters

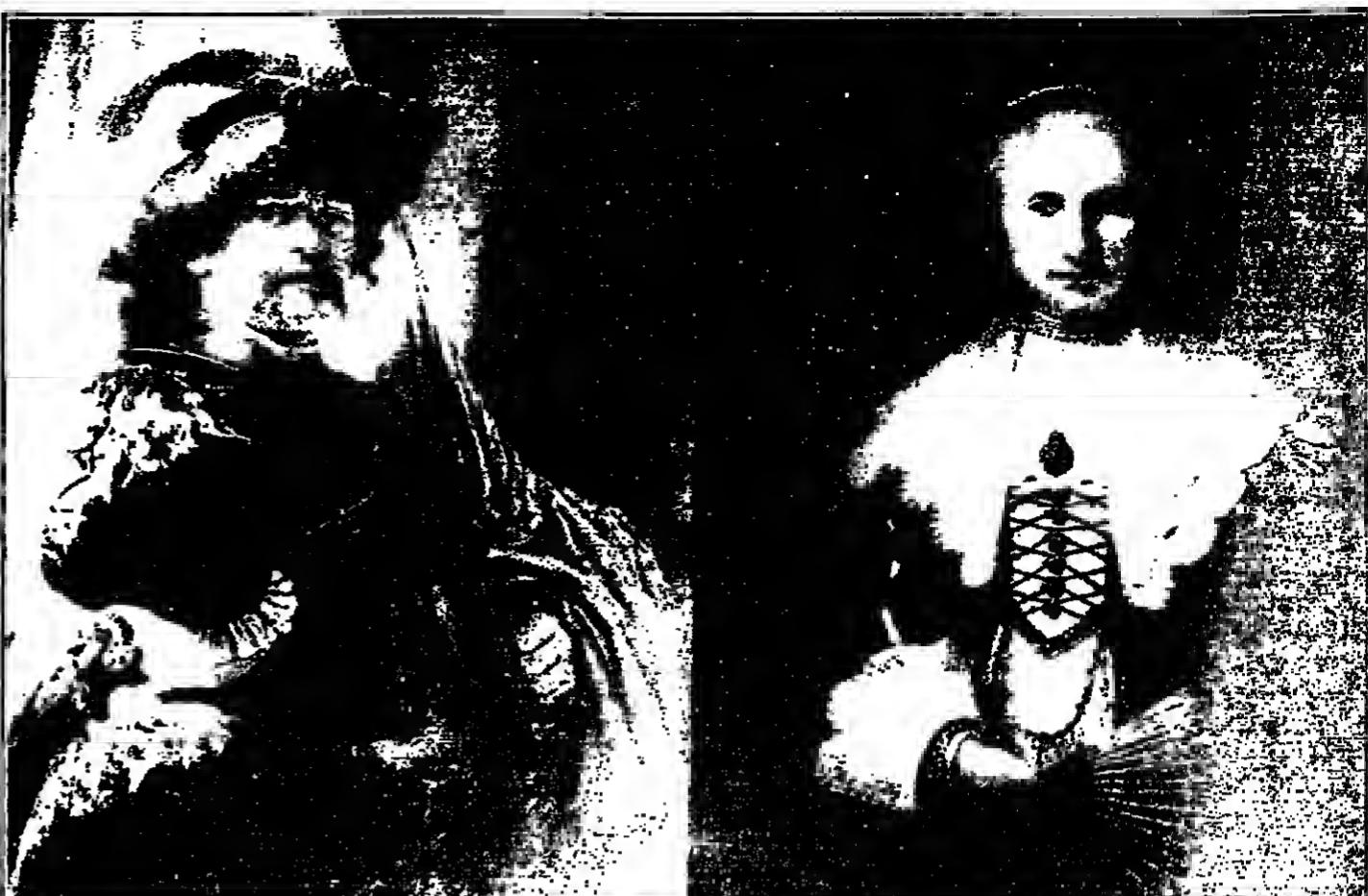
serves as a model for how scientists went about verifying their doubts. It's now up to the public to decide whether, now that the name "Rembrandt" has vanished, it still loves this picture once considered as impressive a piece of art in Berlin as the bust of Nefertiti.

The goal of the exhibition organizers is ambitious indeed: Their didactic approach and educative aim — that every observer be able to appreciate the scientific and scholarly reasoning behind the attributions to either Rembrandt or the workshop.

It remains a moot point whether this will produce hundreds of thousands of Rembrandt specialists. The necessary glass encasement of many of the paintings isn't exactly conducive to detecting crevices, fissures, elevations, and other fine points of canvas painting.

Then, a collection of forty etchings by Rembrandt, which he pursued as a distinct skill as well as an experimental medium.

Finally, in the Alte Museum, a special exhibition of the "Man With the Golden Helm," which suffered a classic case of "aura loss" six years ago when it was shown that Rembrandt was not its creator. Scholars have yet to determine its real creator. It



Rembrandt in the light of science: The Berlin exhibitions present a panoply of genuine works of the master and creations of his apprentices and workshop colleagues, plus etchings by Rembrandt.

the mind, a picture of a brain section which suggests existential dimensions.

In other creations, there is more tranquility, a calmness arising from within and reflecting a spiritual and psychic tension among the portrayed figures, the working of Rembrandt's light and shading, his darkness and his brightness.

Three museums with large Rembrandt collections, the Rijksmuseum of Amsterdam, the National Gallery in London, and the Berlin museums under the aegis of the foundation Preussischer Kulturbesitz, collaborated to make the complex exhibition possible.

There's a touch of irony in

the need to remind readers that the exhibition organizers in Berlin are the Staatliche Museen with their Gemäldegalerie and the etching collection (Kupferstich-Kabinett), and are not to be confused with a certain sponsor.

The manner in which the sponsor has exploited this exhibition for a distinct advertisement campaign is unprecedented for German conditions and liable to provoke irritation. How ironic that Rembrandt, a man chronically in financial straits, should now be in the custodial hands of a credit-card venture: A reviewer of cultural affairs is sorely tempted to comment at length — IN Press.

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Plan to send treasures abroad angers Italy's arts establishment

By John Follian

Reuter

ROME — A government plan to lend art treasures to foreign countries has infuriated Italian museum heads and art historians who say it amounts to selling the family silver.

The draft law would allow foreign museums and cultural institutes to borrow archaeological finds for up to 10 years — to exhibit, restore or just study them.

The backers of the idea,

themselves with Italian master-painter Luigi Covatta, said this would help combat the merciless plundering of Italy's rich cultural heritage by foreign collectors.

Police report some 240,000 art treasures — from Roman coins to marble columns — have been stolen in Italy since 1969. Their total value amounts to tens of millions of dollars.

"If we satisfy the demand for such works on the world market, foreign museums won't need to supply them-

selves with Italian master-painter Giulio Andreotti urging him to ditch the proposal before it is even discussed in cabinet.

They argued the plan would have little effect on the thieves who pilfer ill-protected archaeological sites, as most of their loot is snapped up by private collectors.

Leading art historian Giulio Carlo Argan, a former Communist mayor of Rome, said it was akin "to selling the family silver."

More than 200 historians and restoration experts have

signed an open letter to Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti urging him to ditch the proposal before it is even discussed in cabinet.

They argued the plan

would have little effect on the thieves who pilfer ill-protected archaeological sites, as most of their loot is snapped up by private collectors.

The head of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence told Mr. Covatta his plan was a throwback to the heavy-handed rule of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini.

Mussolini decreed private art collections were the property of the state and sold many off. He broke up state-owned collections to furnish embassies and ministries or to make presents to the likes of Adolf Hitler.

"Art works were stripped from their historic context without any awareness of their value and history. They are works we can't get back because they've been destroyed or put in deposits,"

said Uffizi Director Anna-maria Petrioli Tofani, whose opposition has split

the department down the middle, does not accept Italy owns the world anything.

"Our country is already in credit with the rest of the world which, over the years, has robbed us of masterpieces and monuments.

"That's why we must give priority to a policy which studies and benefits from the art works — where they are,"

Mr. Sisinni said in an unusual public clash with Mr. Covatta at a news conference last month.

Mr. Sisinni said art author-

ities needed government help in organizing the huge quantities of art works stored in deposits. "There are 3,000 museums in Italy, 710 of them state-owned — we need time and money."

The draft law presented by Mr. Covatta is already a minor victory for the arts establishment. The plan has been watered down so that only ancient treasures could be loaned while art works from later periods stay at home.

Traditional Chinese arts threatened

By Kathy Chenault
The Associated Press

PEKING — Craftsmen at the Peking Folk Musical Instruments Factory lovingly shape fine wood and snakeskin into traditional stringed instruments and drums.

But what keeps the factory going are electric guitars and modern metal drum sets.

"In the past few years the factory could hardly survive with just the production of traditional instruments," said Factory Manager Feng Yuankui, who refused to give sales figures.

Not just in music but across the art scene, traditional forms are losing ground to modern Western art forms. Pop songs, videotape adventure movies, televised soap operas and oil paintings are drawing interest away from folk tunes, historical costume, dramas and pen-and-ink drawings of mountains and gongs.

"I don't like it. It's too old-fashioned," said Liu Dong, a 58-year-old Peking resident who was standing near a theatre where star performer Yang Jianzhong would take the stage in a few hours.

Officials now say it is important to revitalise traditional arts to preserve Chinese culture. But past official policies are blamed for contributing to the shift away from traditional arts, particularly the Mao-inspired turmoil of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

Even China's signature art form — the Peking Opera — is struggling to survive.

Most young people prefer a night at the disco to an evening at the Peking Opera because of the operas' slow pace and archaic language that can be hard to understand.

And it's not just young people who lack appreciation

for Peking opera, which often strikes foreigners as a cacophony of shrill warbling accompanied by exaggerated movements and the crashing of cymbals and gongs.

"I have worried that Peking Opera would die off, but the Chinese people cannot let that happen," he said. "In foreign countries they have famous ballet and famous orchestras. But here we have Peking Opera."

To draw in audiences, some troupes are changing the dialogue to make it more understandable and experimenting with electrical instruments to enliven the music. In some places, special performances are given for college students to try to develop a following.

Then in the late 1970s, China began opening to the outside world and a population starved for entertainment was delighted with foreign art forms, Ms. Lin said.

"So the young people now know more about Karaoke and break-dancing," she said. Karaoke bars, which first opened in Japan, allow customers to take the stage and sing pop music along with pre-recorded videos.

Even people who work in the traditional arts now find it difficult to develop appreciation for Chinese culture among their children.

Sun Qingtang, a 54-year-old craftsman at the instruments factory, is one of only three people in China who can make the "Gu Qin," a

stringed instrument with a 3,000-year history. He said he wanted his son to take up the same vocation.

"But he wanted to be a businessman and make more money," Mr. Sun said.

In the old days, there was no problem handing down the traditional arts because children naturally did what their parents did. Mr. Yang, the 51-year-old Peking Opera star, said both his parents were Peking Opera performers. He first performed at age 3.

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Ms. Lin said she is confident that China's traditional arts eventually will regain their popularity.

"When people get old they want something with slow rhythm," she said. "Once people become more mature they appreciate Peking Opera."

She insisted the government doesn't want to suppress Western entertainment in China.

Mr. Yang said, "we can also have broad interests to enrich our art. I myself like Charlie Chaplin films very much."

France pays homage to most far-sighted of her donors

By Pascale Teinac
PARIS — "From Corot to the Impressionists" would be quite a commonplace title for an exhibition if it were not subtitled "The Moreau-Nélaton Donation," which gives it the value of paying homage to a man whom very few people have heard of and yet one who, in his time, revolutionized the August Louvre Museum. It was indeed Etienne Moreau-Nélaton who quite simply, but almost by force, had the Impressionists exhibited in the Louvre.

On July 26, 1906, Mr. Moreau-Nélaton offered the Louvre a magnificent collection of 19th century paintings and drawings which he had built up over the years with far-sightedness and passion. The collection included 39 Corots, 14 Delacroix and all the great names in French-Romantic painting, but also the painters known as the Impressionists, who were still often derided, and their great precursor, Manet. But Moreau-Nélaton's donation to the museum was matched with exacting conditions: The Louvre would have to exhibit all the works offered "without any additions or withdrawals." It took the generous donor a year and a half to

negotiate with the state to have his donation accepted as it was.

This is how, in 1907, after a first exhibition of the donation at the Museum of Decorative Arts, the following paintings appeared on the walls of the Louvre: Edouard Manet's "Déjeuner Sur L'Herbe," which had created a scandal at the Salon des Réfusés in 1863, Claude Monet's "Coquelicots," which marked one of the great turning points in Impressionism, Adolphe Sisley's "Passerelle à Argenteuil," Camille Pissarro's "Pont-Neuf," Johann-Berthold Jongkind's "Ruines du Château de Rossembur," and "Chasse au Papillon" by Berthe Morisot, a discreet artist considered worthy of being presented in the Louvre.

The donor's secret
Never before, until this memorable donation, had a living artist had his work exhibited in the Louvre (this was now the case with Monet). And the rare Impressionists who had had the honour of being shown in a museum had never been further than the Luxembourg Museum, where Manet's "Olympia" had also ended up.

The latter had been bought by public fund-raising organized by Monet and to which Moreau-Nélaton had contributed.

Two further donations to the Louvre, in 1907 and 1919, and a final bequest on his death in 1927, were to make Etienne Moreau-Nélaton the most generous donor to French museums, together with Dr. La Caze, who had made a sumptuous bequest in 1865. In all, this man, to whom France is today paying homage, offered the Louvre 125 paintings, 6,000 drawings and numerous handwritten documents, as well as leaving the Bibliothèque Nationale 3,000 prints and a host of documents on 19th century art.

With him, the whole history of three generations of art collectors came to an end. The collection was started by Adolphe Moreau senior (1800-1859), an exchange dealer fascinated by paintings and a friend of Delacroix and other contemporary painters whose works he had bought. On his death, he left his son, also called Adolphe (1827-1882) some 800 paintings, pastels and drawings. Adol-

phe and his wife, Camille Nélaton, a well-known ceramist, had continued the collection, selling and buying paintings, art objects and furniture. Their son Etienne (1859-1929), who became a painter himself, inherited the family tradition.

His life was marked by a drama: His wife Edmée Braun, married in 1889, and his mother Camille, who had so greatly encouraged his vocation as a painter, died in the fire in the Bazar de la Charité store and he found himself alone with three young children. Strangely enough, this misfortune was to push him into the activity of a painter.

Three weeks later, he bought Manet's "Berthe Morisot with a Fan" and a Corot. In the space of a few years, he created a magnificent collection of Corots and systematically bought Impressionist paintings which he was very keen on.

Yet a mystery remains: In Etienne Moreau-Nélaton's collection, there was not a single Renoir, not a single Degas and not a single Cézanne — *L'Actualité en France*.

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German health care system born out of political needs

By Steve James
Reuter

BONN — Bismarck devised it as a way to quell worker unrest. Hitler used it to build an Aryan master race.

Now Germany's century-old National Health System is catching the eye of American politicians seeking an issue in next year's U.S. presidential campaign.

While none of Germany's political parties denies the success of the crib-to-grave system, one aspect — what to do about long-term nursing care — never fails to generate heated debate here.

The system guarantees all

Germans comprehensive benefits and a free choice of doctor, regardless of ability to pay.

"Germany's social-insurance plan has successfully achieved its overriding objective to provide all citizens with ready access to medical care at a cost the country considers socially acceptable," said a report this year in one of America's top medical magazines, the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

With President George Bush and his prospective Democratic challengers reported to be hailing in on national health care as an

election issue in the face of spiraling health costs, eyes are turning towards the German system as a possible model.

The *New England Journal*'s John Igelhart said the system is attractive to Americans, who tend to eschew anything that smacks of government control, because it allows freedom of choice in a free market environment.

To the United States, which values collaboration between the private and public sectors and favours a limited role for government, Germany's century-old experience is an impressive demonstration of the accommodation of private interests

to the broader public good to achieve what is in the United States an elusive but often-stated goal," wrote Mr. Igelhart.

In other words, the German system works — with 88 per cent of the people receiving health care. The other 12 per cent buy private insurance.

The system is administered by sickness funds that pay doctors and hospitals out of contributions from workers and employers. The combined contribution currently averages 12.8 per cent of gross salary.

In order to receive payment, Germany's 73,000 doctors must be members of

Regional Associations of Physicians, which negotiate with the sickness funds to set fees.

Benefits are the same for all sick workers and their dependents. Federal law stipulates that unemployed sick people and their dependents also receive benefits.

In 1889, in the former West Germany, hospitalisation accounted for 31.5 per cent of total medical expenditures of the sickness funds. After that, visits to the doctor claimed 17.5 per cent and purchase of prescribed drugs 15.6 per cent.

Other benefits include: Purchase of medical appliances, dental care, preventive measures, maternity benefits and funeral benefits.

The system will even pay for visits to spas, if a doctor believes it will improve a patient's health.

Patients present the doctor with a voucher from their sickness fund on which the doctor notes the treatment and drugs prescribed. The patient never sees a bill and no money passes hands between patient and doctor.

The doctors send their Regional Association a list of all treatments given, and are paid every quarter from the sickness fund, based on pre-agreed rates.

National Health has a uni-

que place in German history.

Count Otto Bismarck, the Prussian statesman who united the feuding German principalities into a single state in 1871, envisioned health insurance to promote political stability.

His proposals aimed to quell unrest among workers flocking to German cities during the industrial revolution and curb the growing influence of the unions.

After the war, West Germany rebuilt the system with a new constitutional structure guaranteeing basic freedoms.

In Communist east Germany, a heavily-subsidised system emerged of large public hospitals and clinics. Today, many of them lag behind western technology.

the system for political ends to build a pure German society.

As Nazi Labour Minister Franz Seldte put it, "The whole social security system serves only one aim today. The healthy, enthusiastic, productive, militarily fit racial value of German man of the future."

He enacted laws establishing several types of social insurance — for accident, disability, sickness, old age and unemployment. These form the basis of today's system.

During the Hitler years, the Nazis attempted to use

AIDS epidemic grows worldwide; one face stands out

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The AIDS epidemic caused more human tragedies in 1991, with no scientific breakthroughs that could prevent the lethal disease.

Worldwide, an estimated 8 million people carry HIV, the AIDS virus, and that number will grow to 40 million by the year 2000, researchers say. Three-quarters of them catch it through sex between men and women.

At least 6 million Africans

are already infected, or one of 40 adults, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Some 750,000 children have been infected with the AIDS virus after receiving it from their mothers.

Major AIDS research is being conducted in several African countries, including Zaire, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Senegal and Uganda. At least one vaccine has been tested in Zaire.

Africa is considered a good testing ground for vaccines because the spread of the disease is slowing in the developed world, making it difficult to get large enough groups to conduct studies.

Still, about 200,000 Americans have gotten AIDS since the epidemic began. And for many in 1991, the face of this disease became one they recognised beyond all others.

Magic Johnson, one of the world's best-known athletes, disclosed he was quitting professional basketball because he was infected with HIV.

Suddenly the life of this epidemic, focused on just one man who became enmeshed in it.

Johnson, who is still outwardly healthy, believes he

contracted the virus in a way that is still unusual in the United States: He caught it from a woman.

One decade into the epidemic, 91 per cent of the U.S. victims are drug abusers or men who had sex with other men. Only 3 per cent got AIDS heterosexually.

And of these people, by far the common route of transmission is women getting infected through sex with drug-injecting them.

Yet Johnson's tragedy underscores the real possibility that HIV can spread through male-female sex.

Even though the risk is still slight for most heterosexual Americans, in some places in the United States this appears to be happening, quietly and often.

Especially disturbing to health officials is the growth of the infection among teenagers, especially the poor. One recent study found that over 1 per cent of adolescents in Washington, D.C., are now infected, many of them apparently heterosexually.

Another found that nearly half of 1 per cent of older teenage girls enrolling in the job corps across the United

States carry the virus.

"The virus is winning," says Dr. James Curran, AIDS chief at the U.S. Centres for Disease Control (CDC).

Among other AIDS developments over the past year:

— According to the CDC, 44,672 AIDS cases were reported in the United States, between November 1990 and October 1991, bringing the epidemic's total to 199,406. Of this, 2 per cent were under age 13, 11 per cent were female, 49 per cent lived in New York or California and

85 per cent lived in Metropolitan areas with over 500,000 people.

— The CDC proposed that HIV-infected doctors be barred from doing procedures that might expose patients to their blood, unless they get permission first from a review panel and tell patients about their infection. Many doctor groups oppose the guidelines and say the risk to patients is minuscule, even though a Florida dentist infected five patients during treatment.

— A new AIDS drug, called DDI or Videx, was approved. It becomes the

second medicine, after AZT, that combats the AIDS virus.

Medicines were also approved to relieve the anaemia caused by AZT and to treat an eye infection common among AIDS patients.

— The pharmaceutical industry estimates that 80 AIDS medicines and vaccines are under development. A year ago, the total was 62.

— Nine potential AIDS vaccines have been tested on uninfected people. Major studies to see if they can prevent infection are expected to begin in two to three years.

New enigmas about AIDS virus clutter path of vaccine research

By Lee Yanowitch
Reuter

PARIS — As scientists edge closer to developing an effective weapon against AIDS, they are discovering that the disease is far more complex and enigmatic than they ever

imagined.

Scientists agree that several plagues surrounding the AIDS virus — which infects 5,000 more people each day — remain to be solved before a vaccine can be produced.

One of the most stubborn obstacles is the unknown

number of strains of the HIV virus causing acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

New studies also show the virus is more widespread in the body than previously thought, and that a mysterious co-factor — possibly a

bacteria — provokes certain cells to attack the immune system of AIDS victims.

Marc Girard, director of applied research at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, said scientists working on a vaccine have constructed "tens, even hundreds" of theoretic-

al genetic sequences for potential strains of HIV, but do not know yet whether they actually correspond to living viruses.

Only a vaccine which stimulates antibodies against all strains of the virus could be relied on to protect against AIDS.

"If we find there are as many strains of the virus as we have genetic sequences, we won't be able to produce a vaccine. We can't make a vaccine with 250 strains," Dr. Girard told Reuters. "But we could make one with five, or seven, or 10."

Dr. Girard said a World Health Organisation (WHO) study to identify the various strains is expected to be completed in 1993 and will make the researchers' task easier.

"In about 18 months, which means mid-1993, we should know how many viruses are circulating. But we're still not about to make a vaccine because of the problem of variability," he said.

Luc Montagnier, first to identify the HIV virus, recently drew the public eye to yet another puzzling discovery. He said HIV was far more widespread in the body than previously thought.

"We have found that the virus is not only present in

the blood, but it is in the organs, the lymph nodes and the mucous membrane," Dr. Montagnier said on French television.

In an about-turn from early statements, Dr. Montagnier said it was indeed possible for AIDS to be transmitted by saliva and recommended oral contact be avoided with HIV-infected people.

Dr. Montagnier's research team has also identified new cells in patients with advanced AIDS which attack the infection-fighting white cells of the immune system.

He said these killer cells multiply and attack even if the AIDS virus is no longer present, indicating that a co-factor — bacteria or other viruses — works with HIV to bring on AIDS.

The Pasteur Institute and France's National Agency for AIDS Research (ANRS) are due to start testing a potential vaccine on humans next year.

The vaccine consists of two injections administrated a few days apart, the first alerting the immune system, the second activating the antibodies.

The 60 volunteers needed for the tests must be HIV-free and between 18 and 50 years old because immunological reactions break down in

the membrane. People don't usually catch AIDS through the bloodstream, but while making love. Either via the mucous membrane of the cervix or the rectum," he said.

But Dr. Girard insists a vaccine is the only realistic solution.

"Chemical therapy is out of the question because it's too expensive. Condoms also cost too much and go against the customs of most inhabitants of the Third World," he said.

"We can't ask them to have only one sexual partner, because in much of Africa it is perfectly acceptable to have two or three mistresses. So what's left? Only the vaccine," he said.

Meanwhile, AIDS is raging through the developing world. Who predicts the number of fully developed AIDS cases in the world — now estimated at 1.5 million — will have multiplied 10 times by the year 2000.

"If everything worked well we could have a vaccine in 1997. But nothing goes in a straight line in life. That's why, even if I say the year 2000, I can only hope with all my heart, but we can't be sure," Dr. Girard said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

THE DAYS GROW SHORT
By Charles R. Woodard

CROSS
1. Tooth
6 Mary — Lincoln
10 Fabricated
14 Corday's victim
15 Lucy's
16 Lucy's
20 Skin cream
21 White
22 Gladiolus site
23 "Red River" actor
24 "Red River" director
25 Previous to
28 God of war
29 Carnes
30 Dumb and Dumb
31 Iris
32 Blue for a gown
34 Goodall friends?
35 Know one's — (be profane)

36 Hawthorne phrase ("The Snow Image")
43 Trace
44 Hairpin hazard
45 Hunter and Fleming
46 Triangle
47 Bing Crosby film
51 Muse of history
52 Brooks
53 Tiny need
54 Prefix for logic
55 Intone
56 No longer
57 Atta. abr.
58 Astronomical phenomena
59 Madam film
60 Pardon

61 AKA
62 Skillet
63 Astaire-Powell musical
64 Panel abbr.
73 "Embrace" — ss = Frenchman
74 Jumped
75 Colorful fish
76 Part of OEM
77 "I'm a... word
78 Flia, tree
79 Cold spot
81 Swiss river
82 "I'm a... value
83 Windmill parts
84 Have a VCR accident
85 Madam film
86 Marked

87 Daughter of Eurylys
88 Flower cluster
89 Creator's
90 Loosen, flogging
91 Keep ingredient
92 "I'm a... money
93 Cubes e.g.
94 Alder abr.
95 Ward for a
96 "the Top"
97 Antelope
98 Worked as a
99 Falls behind
100 Departs
101 "Monsieur" —
102 Charger
103 Antelope
104 "I'm a... money
105 "Wendy"
106 Kind of music
107 One — million
108 Hokus

Diagramless 19 X 21, by James Barrick

1. Kind of orange
2. Kind of fruit
3. Large four-footed animal
4. Art
5. Beast of burden
6. Very light wood
7. "The" — and the Pendulum
8. "The" — and the Pendulum
9. Port T.B.
10. Because
11. "The" — and the
12. Insect feeding on wood

13. Sudden and forcible entry
14. Art
15. Beast of burden
16. Holiday song
21. Kind of bear

90 Burden
91 Small pitchers have wrye — (Heywood)
92 "I'm a... value
93 Cubes e.g.
94 Alder abr.
95 Ward for a
96 "the Top"
97 Antelope
98 Worked as a
99 Falls behind
100 Departs
101 "Monsieur" —
102 Charger
103 Antelope
104 "I'm a... money
105 "Wendy"
106 Kind of music
107 One — million
108 Hokus

1. SNEEB UCWCYIBY STUCBCEY ENTO I
2. KYNSSB ONOT SAK KNOTBTEE YA I
3. WIOH
4. TFKF FSXSBWJ BSCJB ISCJD XJBQJFY
5. HLDYLT FSJSI XXJ OLS HJDY XSW.
6. CAMP
7. BAGHL EGH TUFBL CELF
8. CALF OAN TROUGH CAM UG TAM.
9. ZILWO YLWEFT WTWBZZQ UBLWOBIA
10. BUEWLWT AHFLAT EBLY AYUEQ FADOT.

—By Lois H. Jones
—By Ed Huddleston
—By Barbara J. Rugg

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

1. SNEEB UCWCYIBY STUCBCEY ENTO I
2. KYNSSB ONOT SAK KNOTBTEE YA I
3. WIOH
4. TFKF FSXSBWJ BSCJB ISCJD XJBQJFY
5. HLDYLT FSJSI XXJ OLS HJDY XSW.
6. CAMP
7. BAGHL EGH TUFBL CELF
8. CALF OAN TROUGH CAM UG TAM.
9. ZILWO YLWEFT WTWBZZQ UBLWOBIA
10. BUEWLWT AHFLAT EBLY AYUEQ FADOT.

Indonesia finally realises it has AIDS

By Jonathan Thatcher
Reuter

JAKARTA — Iswati takes a mix of pills to keep AIDS at bay, though Lia says she heard horse meat works.

Both work in Jakarta's red light areas, one for locals and one for foreigners, where the government has finally told Indonesians they can catch AIDS as something impossible to catch from having sex with another Indonesian.

"Yes, I am afraid. I take a mix of pills and antibiotics so I don't catch

Novelist hits Arab repression

By Associated Press

MUNIF is in the Arab world for writing about taboo subjects like corruption and human rights. For decades he has paid the price.

Saudi Arabia took away his passport. Iraqi authorities jailed him for months. Many Arab countries ban his novels, which focus on what Mr. Munif sees as the shared trait of Arab nations: a lack of democracy and yokes.

"All Arab countries, resemble each other in their prisons," the year-old writer said in an interview at his home. "There are a few simple differences in the number of prisoners and the number of prisons. There are just governments who believe in democracy."

Prisons, corruption and the infusion caused by trying to adapt to westerners, especially Americans, are the main themes of two Munif novels just published, one in Arabic, the other in English, translation of an earlier work.

"His importance is that he writes about sensitive topics," said Aqil Awat, a poet and literary critic for the newspaper *Sharg U Awest*. "He's well-known for his books in Arabic deals with capital torture, beatings and performances, experienced by two men who are moved from prison to prison. For Mr. Munif's various jails, the various jails represent life in different Arab countries.

"There is no means to realize everyone's dream of enjoying basic rights in a democratic atmosphere because the systems in the region are either feudal or military," he told an interviewer.

The book in English translation is the second part of a quintet written over the last decade. It chronicles the forgetful changes in a slow-moving desert society corrupted by wealth.

While the first volume revolved around an oil town, the second focuses on life in the capital, with the king increasingly beholden to oil companies as the ruling family acquires vast wealth.

Other volumes in the quintet follow the country through a major political crisis, when a king is deposed and internal problems

spout under the torrent of petro-

oil wealth.

U.S. economic

slump reveals Bush's

drawbacks as leader

By Gene Gibbons

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Day by day, the U.S. economic picture grows gloomier, highlighting President George Bush's greatest shortcoming — managing domestic policy and presenting it to the public.

In striking contrast to his bold, assertive style in the Gulf war, Mr. Bush seems to be groping for answers to the slump, shaking his confidence in his leadership and throwing him into a free-fall in the public opinion polls.

An apt illustration of why Mr. Bush is in trouble emerged last Wednesday when he travelled to Texas to sign a bill supposed to put hundreds of thousands of people to work building highways and mass transport projects.

The same day, General Motors, once unsurpassed in the car industry, shocked the country by announcing massive

layoffs and a score of plant clos-

ures.

One factory believed to be a potential target for closure was the one Mr. Bush spoke. But instead of seizing the moment to talk about GM's distress and what he was doing about it, Mr. Bush remained silent.

The next day the Dallas Morning News described a presidential visit to a roadside cafe after the all-signing under the headline "Bush takes time out to eat with new workers."

Although the White House re-

ferred to the suggestion, there are

parallels between Mr. Bush and Herbert Hoover, who left the presidency in disgrace because of the great depression of the 1930s.

Like Mr. Bush, Hoover was

known as a global statesman.

He followed a popular president

history paints as lazy and ineffec-

tal — Calvin Coolidge, coin-

tin

NEWS ANALYSIS

ised to unveil a new economic plan before his later January State of the Union address and in the meantime Republicans have been floating all sorts of trial balloons, none inspiring much excitement.

One was a proposal to spur the economy by giving Americans a \$300 tax rebate, prompting one television commentator to snort: "A dollar a day keeps the recession away."

Mr. Bush's handling of the economy is reminiscent of his performance in last year's budget battle with Congress, establishing a budget agreement that limits options in today's crisis. Mr. Bush abandoned the main promise of his 1988 presidential campaign — "read my lips: no new taxes."

When reporters asked him about this retreat, Mr. Bush said flippantly, "read my lips" and pointed to his backside.

Sad Christmas tinged with hope for Palestinians

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank — The crescent of the moon hangs eerily over the Mosque of Omar. It is a cool night and the town square is empty — except for the Israeli soldiers; about five or six sit in their jeep parked under a tall tree against the Church of Nativity. On top of the New Tourist Shopping Centre, a permanent Israeli presence has been established. A machine gun-toting soldier, wrapped in a heavy coat with a cap and gloves, keeps a watchful eye over the square below next to a listless Israeli flag.

The night is quiet except for the occasional laughter of the soldiers.

A taxi pulls into the city square, bringing back residents working in Jerusalem and Israel proper; the passengers quickly disembark and disappear into the maze of alleys that meet into the parking lot.

The courtyard of the Church of Nativity is quiet. The outline of a star sitting on top of a cross can be made out. A little farther to the left, on top of the entrance to the church, another cross can be seen. But the church and its surroundings are uncharacteristically dark for this time of the year.

Christmas come, Bethlehem is usually a festival of lights and activity. But this year, as in the previous four, all celebrations will be subdued. The intifada, the Palestinian's struggle against the Israeli occupation, rages on.

"Since 1987, with the start of the intifada, the Municipal Council has stopped decorating the city with lights, decorations and Christmas trees,"

said Hanna J. Nasser, deputy mayor of Bethlehem.

Many families in Bethlehem, as in many other cities in the occupied Arab territories, suffer for having fathers, sons and daughters in jail or have no one to guide.

"The tourists think we're going to rob them," he continues. "They're afraid of us. They (Israeli officials) tell them at the airport 'don't go to

bus. "I stay here all day looking for people to guide," he says. "Sometimes, I stay here one week and I have no one to guide."

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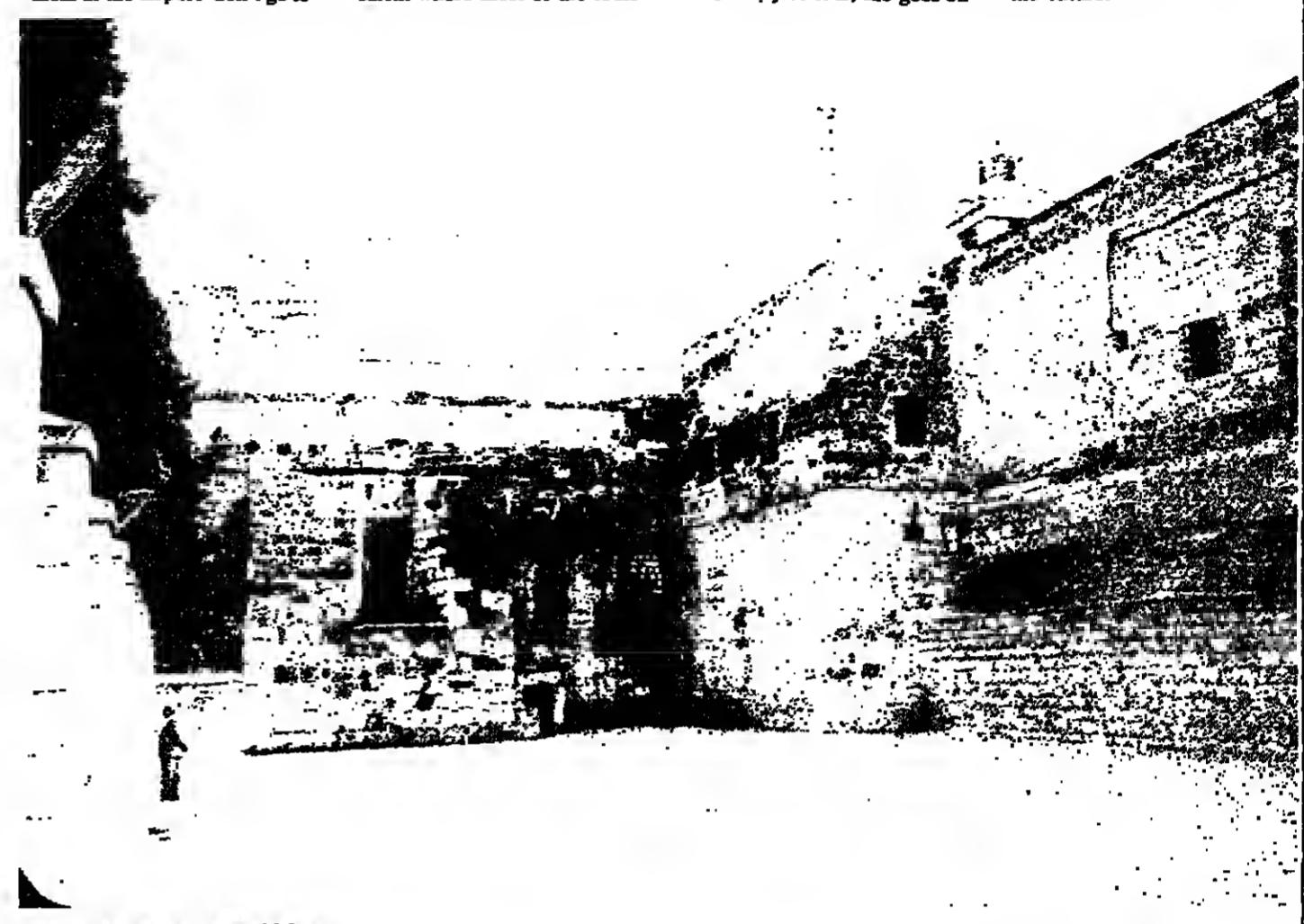
the West Bank and stay away from Arabs."

Although able to speak Arabic, French, English, Spanish and German, it is hard to find employment, Mr. Rock said. He has tried to get a job with one of the agencies in Jerusalem where most of the tourists

Gloomy as it is, life goes on

and hope for a better Christmas finds its way in people's hearts.

"All 24 years during the Israeli occupation, the Palestinians have paid a lot and have suffered a lot," said Mr. Nasser. "And always, this suffering inspires people to hope for the future."



Church of Nativity in Bethlehem

Candidates use 'America first' to mean whatever they want it

By Jill Lawrence
The Associated Press

parties to question his commitment to his own country.

Three of them are using explicit America first slogans — Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Wilder and former Ku Klux Klansman David Duke, running as an independent.

For Republican commentator Patrick Buchanan, "America first" is a conservative retort to President George Bush's avid internationalism, a modern-day echo of the isolationists of a half-century ago.

But for Democratic Gov. L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia, it's a slap at Mr. Bush's alleged neglect of domestic concerns — and it has little to do with America's role on the world stage.

Mr. Bush's self-professed fascination with foreign affairs has encouraged challengers in both

tory in every trade and arms negotiation.

His vision is closest to the one espoused by Conservative isolationists who formed the America first committee before World War II. The committee grew to 800,000 before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor — and disbanded within days of the attack.

"Buchanan can be seen as an ideological descendant of the America first people," said historian Michael Kazin, a professor at American University. "He really believes at this point the United States should take care of itself and pull away from foreign commitment. He really does want to wash his hands of what's happening to other countries."

Mr. Buchanan takes a broader view, to him, "America first" means phasing out foreign aid and preserving "our Judeo-Christian values." It means rejecting a leadership role in "some vague new world order" and embracing instead "a new nationalism" leading to U.S. vic-

lity military aid to Japan and Germany and a firm view of a superpower's responsibilities.

"I don't want to see this country go back to America first and protection that will shrink markets and throw people out of work," the president said last week. "We need to stand together against that call... to stay within ourselves."

Historians say the new incarnation of the America first movement lacks the intellectual muscle and credibility of the original. The premise, however, evidently still appeals to some Americans. "If it didn't, the Democrats would not be talking in these terms," said Mr. Kazin.

The Democratic presidential candidates are calling for increased investment in America and cuts in foreign aid, particularly

Even Mr. Wilder, with his uproot "put America first" slogan, says that simply means he wants to reduce the federal deficit, cut middle-class taxes and help communities deal with crime and drugs. The theme "in no way conflicts with our nation's international standing or obligation to help friends in need," he said last week.

Most of the Democrats are talking about opening international markets to U.S. products and making U.S. industry more competitive, and in those ways assuring that the country will continue to influence world events.

As former Massachusetts Gov. Paul Tsongas said in a speech last fall, "power will increasingly gravitate to those who cannot launch an army but can write a check."

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Al Wihdat — champions again

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Wihdat Soccer Club has a lot to be proud of this season. Adding to its past glory, the club has won the premier division title this year again while reaching the final of the Jordan Cup soccer tournament.

Al Wihdat had not lost a single game this season until their surprise 2-1 defeat by Al Hussein. They still have a match against Al Faisali (an all time rival that has its own impressive record of six league titles in the 80s). Al Wihdat secured the title early in the fourth week of the second round with only five goals entering their net.

Al Wihdat fans also love to set records. A record 25,000 attended Al Wihdat-Al Faisali match in the first round.

"Whenever Al Wihdat is playing there'll surely be a big crowd following. I mean, big in thousands ... like over 15,000," said Al Wihdat's head coach Mohammad Mustafa.

Al Wihdat had to clear some hurdles in order to get to the top this year, namely against 1990 titleholder Al Faisali and Al Ramtha, who will now struggle to secure the number two spot.

"We expected a tough rivalry and competition at the outset of the championship, but as you know every good team sets its eyes on the trophy and we were determined as ever to win it this year," Mustafa told the Jordan Times.

The 1991 season was good in general. I think all the teams were in better form in the first round. However, the second round took a lot of time to complete, with matches continuously postponed and resche-

duled. This is one thing that shouldn't happen because it affects the players and everyone involved," he said.

"Surprisingly, the teams which were not expected to perform well improved a lot in the second round. But I expected a tougher competition from the more experienced teams, especially Al Ramtha, Al Faisali and Al Ahli," said Mustafa, adding "inconsistency is part of our athletic tradition I guess."

Al Wihdat recently beat Al Faisali 2-1 in the semifinals of the Jordan Cup and will meet the winner of Al Ahli-Al Ramtha in the final, set for Jan. 3.

The team has come a long way since the establishment of the club in 1956. The club has many other activities, but soccer has been the predominant one. Before coming under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth, Al Wihdat won the Jordan Youth Centres Soccer Cup nine times from 1959-1968. The volleyball team has also dominated the scene, winning the title five times and hoping to add this season's title to their record.

Al Wihdat's soccer team first won the second division title in 1975 and climbed to the first division (now premier league). They played the 1976 season in the first division losing all their matches and being the recipient of 28 goals. They were relegated, but won the second division title in 1977 without losing a single match.

The team played the 1978 season in the first division ... this time finishing third.

However, 1980 is the year Al Wihdat will never forget. Losing only one match, Al Wihdat clinched the premier league trophy for the first time. They topped the overall standings well ahead of the runner-up, Al Ramtha.

Al Wihdat has always provided Jordanian soccer and the national team with outstanding players like Ghassan Juma'a, Walid Kandil, Ghassan Bal'awi, Khalid Salim and more recently, Ibrahim Sa'dieh (one of the 25 top athletes in Jordan), Jihad Abdul Mun'um (the league's top scorer this season), Ra'ed Assaf, Hisham Abdul Mun'um and many others.

Coach Mustafa has seen his team develop from the modest beginnings to winning the Jordan premier league title.

Although he never played in Al Wihdat soccer team when he was young, as his favourite game was volleyball, he nevertheless chose to pursue his studies in physical education, graduating from the University of Alexandria in 1980, specialising in soccer.

He became assistant coach at Al Wihdat in 1981 and became head coach in 1986. Since then his team has won five major titles.

Coach Mustafa attended advanced training courses in Egypt in 1986; in Iraq in 1988 and in

Amman this year.

He is rightfully happy and content with what he has achieved for his club but never forgets to mention the fact that the teamwork, determination and efforts of all those involved (assistants, managers and players) enabled Al Wihdat to reach the top.

"My players have been very determined and committed. I can say I had a 99 per cent attendance at training sessions since the beginning of the soccer season ... which is a very important factor," Mustafa said.

In preparation for the 1991 season, we trained daily, except Fridays. We also had two training camps, one in Aqaba and the one in Syria. We also played seven friendly matches in addition to the Federation Shield matches (in which only premier division teams compete)," the coach said.

"Once the premier league begins, training is of course reduced. Players take a day off after a match but train prior to the next match," he added.

Training grounds are one major problem we face. There are only three soccer stadiums in Amman which are used for training by 25 to 30 clubs, in addition to the youth teams of these clubs.

The other major problem facing soccer players in general and hindering the future development of soccer in Jordan, is the lack of incentives while playing in the league and an uncertain future after quitting soccer," he added.

In addition to the soccer competitions organised by the Jordan Soccer Federation, Al Wihdat organises the Wihdat Arab Soc-



Al Wihdat's 1991 soccer team

cer Tournament in which teams from neighbouring Arab countries such as Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq and Syria participate. Al Wihdat won the event in 1987.

Outside Jordan, Al Wihdat participated in a tournament in Tunis in 1984 and finished third in the 1988 Arab Clubs Championship in Latakia, Syria.

The club now awaits the Arab Soccer Federation's decision on holding the Arab Clubs Championship in which they will represent Jordan as holders of the 1991 season title.

Many players from Al Wihdat

will be part of the Jordanian national team which will participate in the Arab sports tournament due to be held in Syria in Sept. 1992. Jordan will also play in the Olympic preliminaries. At least five Wihdat players are part of the team which has not yet begun its preparations.

"Our national teams in general are unfortunately formed shortly before the events, and everyone expects the teams to perform miracles and achieve good results," commented coach Mustafa. "National teams will not bring the proper results if they are not

given sufficient time for preparation. It is as if our national teams are event-oriented and are regrouped for the tournament or championship itself."

Al Wihdat now anxiously await the few matches left in the premier division to be crowned this season's champions as well as their Jan. 3 match in the final of the Jordan Cup, hoping to add it to their impressive results this season, as well as their achievements since they asserted themselves as one of the top teams in Jordan.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The trine of the Moon to the Sun. Being the only aspect today assures an enjoyable holiday with the Moon in well ordered Virgo, keeping most of our feelings and thinking easily aligned.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get involved with as many persons as possible today and let them know of your affection for and devotion to them to create a more lasting rapport.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can enjoy your surroundings more than usual this Christmas Day so have about you as may of the conditions and things you enjoy the most.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) One from the outside world can be the means by which your happiness at this holiday season is greatly enhanced so do something special in return.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you have a chance to let those who are in the outside world be more aware of your interest in them and appreciation for their abilities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Bring some new associates into the picture this Christmas Day and let them know of your love for mankind generally and specific persons.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are able to make an even deeper impression upon the one who means the most to you today and tonight so don't hold back with personal favour.

show those who have been helpful to you in practical and mundane ways that you value and appreciate their support.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are endowed with super warmth and magnetism and would be wise to express it freely to whomsoever you come in contact with and have much love in return.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Put your close companions at ease by showing them in unmistakable terms of your devotion to them and willingness to put yourself for their sake.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Extend your holiday greetings to whatever friends and acquaintances come to your mind and be more lavish in letting them know of your interest in them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you have a chance to let those who are in the outside world be more aware of your interest in them and appreciation for their abilities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Bring some new associates into the picture this Christmas Day and let them know of your love for mankind generally and specific persons.

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THE BETTER HALF

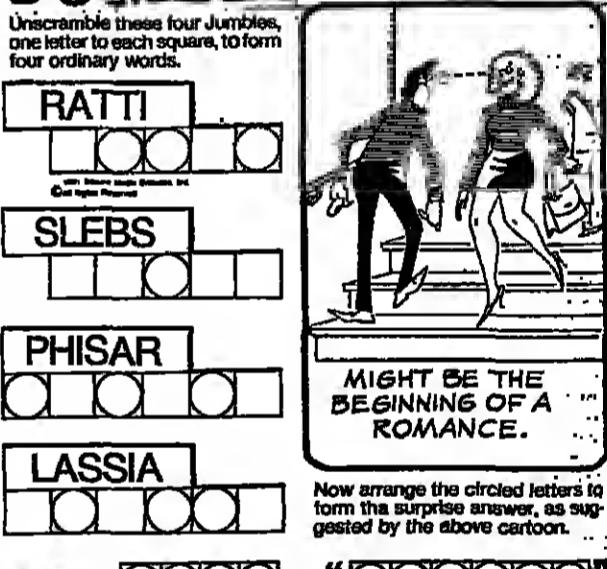
By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Herb Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer: A OF

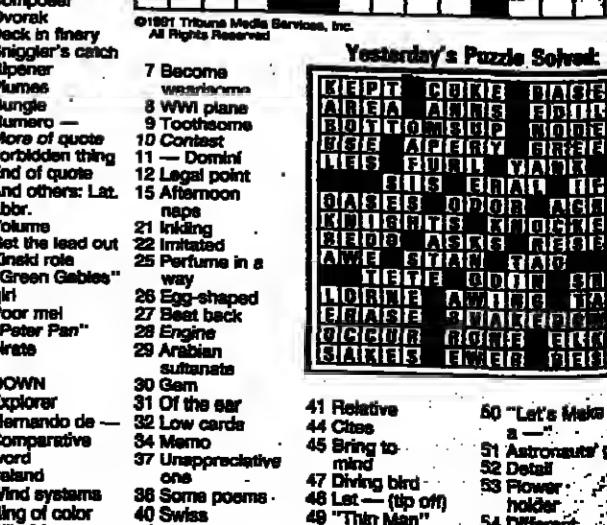
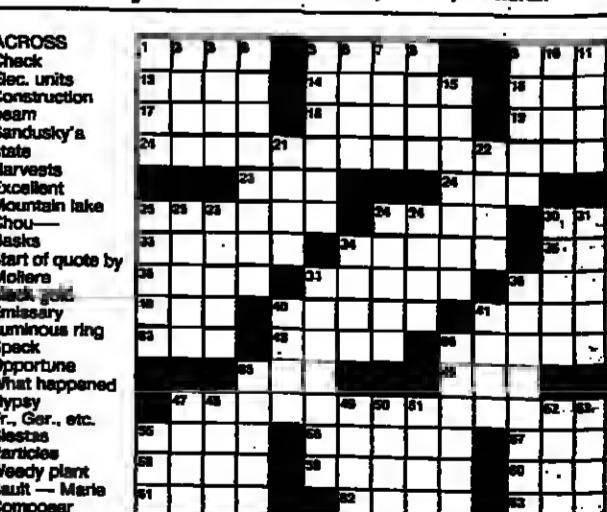
(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: HUMAN BLOOD ADJUST CONVER

Answer: A cowpoke who's always watching the clock generally remains this—ONE OF THE HANDS

THE Daily Crossword

by Dorothy B. Martin



KIEPPI COKE FLAGED
ARIEA ARIES FINITE
TOMBOY BOPP MOORE
HOPPER PEPPI FREIGHT
TIEBES BOPP VAPES
DARIES DOPP AGES
KIRIGE KIRIGE GIBES
BIEBES BIEBES GIBES
AWIE AWIE TAN
YETIE YETIE TAN
LIGHTE LIGHTE TAN
EFAFE EFAFE TAN
DICKER DICKER TAN
GARIES GARIES TAN

41 Relative 50 "Let's Make
44 Cities 51 —
32 Low cards 52 Detail
37 Unproductive 53 Detail
38 Some poems 54 Different
6 Bill of fare 55 Cages

47 Diving bird 56 Detail
48 Let (tip off) 57 Detail
49 "Thin Man" 58 Detail
50 "Let's Make
51 —
52 Detail
53 Detail
54 Different
55 Cages

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



White House suggests room for even lower interest rates

Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank
U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE		TOKYO CLOSE	
	23/12/91	Mar 24/21/91	23/12/91	Mar 24/21/91
Sterling Pound ¹	1.8755	1.8775		
Deutsche Mark	1.5194	1.5200		
Swiss Franc	1.5495	1.3510		
French Franc	5.1940	5.1856 **		
Japanese Yen	126.99	127.75		
European Currency Unit	1.3350	1.3357**		

* USD Per STG

** European Opened at 2:00 a.m. GMT

Hypercurrency Interest Rates Date: 24/12/91

Currency	1 MTHS		3 MTHS		6 MTHS		12 MTHS	
	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²
U.S. Dollar	4.93	4.57	4.25	4.25				
Sterling Pound	11.00	10.93	10.87	10.75				
Deutsche Mark	9.81	9.62	9.50	9.50				
Swiss Franc	8.50	8.25	8.06	7.87				
French Franc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.12				
Japanese Yen	6.25	6.00	5.68	5.57				
European Currency Unit	10.50	10.50	10.57	10.25				

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Practices Metals Date: 24/12/91

Metal	USD/Oz		JD/Gm ²		Metal	USD/Oz		JD/Gm ²	
	Gold	359.67	6.80	Silver		3.92	0.085		
21 Karat									

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 24/12/91

Currency	Bid		Offer	
	USD	JD	USD	JD
U.S. Dollar	0.676		0.673	
Sterling Pound	1.2659		1.2772	
Deutsche Mark	0.4428		0.4450	
Swiss Franc	0.4984		0.5009	
French Franc	0.1297		0.1305	
Japanese Yen ³	0.5300		0.5327	
Dutch Guilder	0.3948		0.3958	
Swedish Krona	0.1212		0.1216	
Italian Lira ⁴	0.0564		0.0567	
Belgian Franc	0.02161		0.02172	

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 24/12/91

Currency	Bid		Offer	
	USD	JD	USD	JD
Bahrain Dinar	1.7640		1.7720	
Lebanese Lira ⁵	0.0765		0.0775	
Saudi Riyal	0.1799		0.1806	
Kuwaiti Dinar	-		-	
Qatari Riyal	0.1832		0.1840	
Egyptian Pound	0.2000		0.2020	
Omani Riyal	1.7305		1.7390	
UAE Dirham	0.1832		0.1840	
Greek Drachma ⁶	0.5735		0.5755	
Cypriot Pound	1.5350		1.5460	

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets Date: 24/12/91

Index	22/12/91		Close	
	23/12/91	Close	23/12/91	Close
All-Share	129.61	125.67		
Banking Sector	106.67	105.98		
Insurance Sector	128.64	126.71		
Industry Sector	163.65	162.20		
Services Sector	143.34	142.58		

December 31, 1990 = 100

Irish economy stumbles after four go-go years

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Ireland's economy, hurt by recession in Britain, weak farm prices and double-digit interest rates, is stumbling after four years of go-go growth.

Because of a dearth of jobs in recession-hit Britain, net emigration for the year ended in April was zero, compared with an average of 27,000 a year in each of the previous four years.

Britain also consumes a third of Irish exports, so a recession in Britain has a double impact.

The economic slowdown and the resulting rise in unemployment and other benefit payments is expected to push the budget deficit 50 per cent above target at 685 million Irish pounds (\$11 billion) this year.

That sets off alarms in a country that suffered a public finance crisis in the early 1980s.

The country's debt amounts to 26 billion Irish pounds (\$42 billion), 10 per cent more than its entire annual output of goods and services.

Ireland's economy will not grow at all this year, and will

expand a modest two per cent next year, said Jim O'Leary, chief economist at Ireland's top brokerage firm Davy Stockbrokers.

Mr. Kennedy is more optimistic, forecasting two per cent growth this year, and 3.25 per cent in 1992.

Ireland had basked in average economic growth of 4.5 per cent a year from 1987 and 1990. During these years, Irish businesses like U.S.-based H.J. Heinz Co.'s chief, Tony O'Reilly, became stars at home and abroad.

But Ireland was riding on the back of economic growth in bigger countries, and as those economies turned down, Ireland followed.

Although many Irish recognise that Ireland's problems result partly from geographical accident, they still expect the government to improve their lot, Mr. O'Leary said.

Irish interest rates, now above 10 per cent, may be at the mercy of German rates, for example, but the government could help the country by providing tax incentives for getting off welfare, Mr. O'Leary said.

"Irish people have a fair capacity for cynicism, fatalism, call it what you will," Mr. O'Leary said. "But at the end of the day people will look for a scapegoat."

But out all the economic news is bad.

Helped by national programmes that limit wage increases in both the private and public sector, the inflation rate is steady at an enviable three per cent.

The merchandise trade surplus, predicted at 1.7 billion pounds (\$2.7 billion) this year, is expected to continue to grow, to two billion pounds (\$3.2 billion) next year.

Interest rates, however, are above 10 per cent not because of government policy, but because Britain and Germany are keeping their rates high.

Ireland suffers from being a small, thinly populated island on the edge of Europe, with a birth rate 50 per cent higher than the European average.

Ireland is the third poorest country in the 12-nation European Community, richer only than Greece and Portugal. Its average per capita gross domestic product is \$3,984 compared with a European average of \$13,401.

"I think we're still underachieving by a very large margin. We're underachieving in terms of our aspirations to get closer to the same living standards as Europe," Mr. O'Leary said.

High taxes are a discouraging factor. Although the basic income tax rate is 29 per cent, the threshold for a single taxpayer to qualify for the highest income tax rate of 52 per cent is an income of 12,985 Irish pounds (\$20,778) a

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Gorbachev to quit today

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will announce his resignation Wednesday in a televised address, a Kremlin spokesman said Tuesday.

"The president will make a televised broadcast in which he will announce his resignation," spokesman Vladimir Tumarkin said by telephone.

Mr. Gorbachev's resignation has been widely expected since last weekend when 11 republics formed a Commonwealth of Independent States to replace the Soviet Union.

TASS News Agency said a Mr. Gorbachev speech would be broadcast at nine p.m. (1900 GMT) Wednesday.

Russian leader Boris Yeltsin last week announced that his republic was taking over Mr. Gorbachev's official assets, as well as his Kremlin headquarters.

Mr. Gorbachev took leave of his official staff Tuesday, one of his aides said.

"I wish you all great happiness and success," the official quoted Mr. Gorbachev as telling the press.

He told them they had no need to worry about their future employment and shrank bands with them, said the official, who asked not to be named.

They drank soft drinks and ate cakes.

Russia Tuesday presented its radical economic reform plans to prime ministers of the other 10 members of the new Commonwealth of Independent States, Interfax News Agency said.

The proposals will be debated and, if approved by the prime ministers, presented to a meeting of heads of state on Dec. 30 in the Byelorussian capital Minsk, it said.

Some participants in the meeting, the first council of heads of government since the new commonwealth was expanded last Saturday, expressed doubts that agreement could be reached on the Russian plans so quickly.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar told the meeting that Russia would go ahead

with its plans, including the liberalisation of prices on Jan. 2, Interfax said.

Some republican leaders have criticised the plan, which is likely to force them to take similar measures to avoid destabilisation of their own, smaller economies.

Participants expressed fears that the price liberalisation would cause a shortage of banknotes in their republics, the agency said.

Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Gennady Burlatov said Russian President Yeltsin holds the title of prime minister himself — said a committee of republican representatives set up in September to coordinate economic policy would cease to exist on Dec. 30, Interfax said.

The inter-state republican committee was chaired by Soviet Prime Minister Ivan Silayev, named by Mr. Yeltsin last week as Russia's permanent representative to the European Commission.

Mr. Gorbachev met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin for eight hours Monday to discuss the transfer of power, including command over the Soviet Union's 27,000 nuclear weapons.

The issue of who controls the nuclear "button" has been one of the most pressing questions since Mr. Gorbachev's central government collapsed in the wake of the attempted August coup.

Mr. Gorbachev late Monday gave British Prime Minister John Major "a great deal of reassurance" that the weapons were under tight control and would remain that way, Mr. Major said.

In a newspaper interview published Tuesday, Mr. Gorbachev reiterated his criticism of the new Commonwealth of Independent States, saying it was unclear whether it was "a unification or a fragmentation."

Mr. Gorbachev also warned of unrest if the economy and living conditions continue to worsen, but said he did not expect another military coup.

The only danger comes from the street, if discontented people will take to the street and political prostitutes and political prostitutes push them into action," he was quoted as telling Komsomolskaya Pravda.

In Washington, a Bush admini-

stration official said the United States will extend diplomatic recognition to Russia as an independent country this week and support it for the Soviet Union's seat on the United Nations Security Council.

In a letter to House Chairman Anatole Alimzhayev explaining his decision to resign, Mr. Geraschenko cited last Saturday's agreement by 11 republics to form the new commonwealth to replace the Soviet Union.

Mr. Alimzhayev said the Central Bank chief had also offered the resignation of his deputy, Valerian Kulikov.

The resignations are seen as a formality because the Russian parliament's leadership announced on Dec. 20 that the Central Bank would be abolished in its present form.

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But the Chamber of the Republics put off a decision on whether to accept the resignation until after this month.

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IRA calls ceasefire, Protestants refuse

DUBLIN (R) — The IRA, fighting one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts, called a Christmas ceasefire from Tuesday but Protestant extremists said the official, speaking on condition they would not follow suit.

The United States will also eventually recognise the independence of the other former Soviet republics that have broken away from the Soviet Union and formed the new commonwealth, said the official, speaking on condition they would not follow suit.

Illustrating the problems facing the country's new leaders, meanwhile, a third day of fighting raged in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, where the elected president is battling opposition forces who have branded him a dictator. At least 30 have died in the clashes in Tbilisi, the capital, according to the Georgian Health Ministry.

Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who has been engaged in a sometimes bloody power struggle with the opposition since September, reportedly was holed up in the parliament building.

The TASS news agency said as many as 50 may have died in several days of battles. Independent confirmation of the toll was impossible due to the level of fighting.

On Saturday, 11 of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaimed a new Commonwealth of Independent States to replace the Soviet Union.

Lawmakers in Kazakhstan ratified the agreement Monday. Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia already have signed the pact, and ratification was expected soon by parliaments in the other seven republics.

Fiercely independent Georgia was the only former republic, along with the Baltics, that refused to join, although its president told the British Broadcasting Corp. he was considering joining.

The alliance will assume control over the Soviet military while letting other central government functions die or be handed over to republics.

Croats prepare for bomb-shelter Christmas

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — Hopes of a Christmas ceasefire in Yugoslavia's embattled Republic of Croatia died in a rain of artillery shells Tuesday.

"Bombs are falling all over the place," a police spokesman in Osijek told Reuters by telephone.

As shelling on the Croat-held town continued through Monday night and into Tuesday, Croatian radio urged people not to leave their basements and shelters.

But the police officer said the spirit of the town was not broken. "People are decorating trees and baking cookies in their basements and we won't let the bombing ruin our Christmas," he said.

The IRA, whose ammunition in Dublin followed a weekend orgy of sectarian killings in Northern Ireland, said the ceasefire would cover Dec. 24, 25 and 26.

The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), and outlawed Protestant group battling to keep the province British, said in a statement released in Belfast it would not do the same.

"The UVF will not respond to the IRA ceasefire. We view the IRA announcement as hypocritical and cynical. If any IRA members venture out of their bunkers, they will be dealt with," it said.

The halt to the IRA's two-decade-old guerrilla campaign coincides with the release on Christmas parole of 130 gunmen serving long jail sentences for terrorist offences.

British security authorities, who tend to dismiss IRA truces as media stunts, will be keeping troops and police on full alert throughout the holiday.

Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Peter Brooke said he welcomed the IRA truce but added it would be little comfort for families facing Christmas without a loved one "killed in the name of a cause which has no relevance for the Ireland or Europe of today."

He called on the IRA to give up violence for good and said that if they did not "the people, north and south, can only conclude that the IRA's real Christmas message came earlier this month in Belfast and Craigavon."

More than 100 people were injured in IRA car bomb attacks in the centre of Belfast and the border town of Craigavon.

The IRA has planted up to 300 firebombs across Northern Ireland and spread its "economic warfare" campaign to the British mainland, where firebombs have been planted in stores and firebombs and bombs used to halt London's rail network.

The guerrilla group, jubilant over what it considers to be a major propaganda success, has promised to "hit hard" with more attacks in Britain over the New Year.

After weekend carnage in Northern Ireland that left five people dead, the IRA distanced itself from the Protestant and renegade Republican gunmen responsible for the shootings.

The IRA, eager to be portrayed as a liberation army and not a sectarian killer gang, took the unusual step of issuing a statement in Dublin dissociating itself from the killings.

Friends said Mr. Wen began developing health problems while in Qinching, a maximum security prison outside Peking where many of the key figures from the 1989 movement were held.

Mr. Wen was in charge of propaganda work during the massive protests, and was arrested shortly after June 4. He was

accusing the other of starting the attacks and ignoring the agreed ceasefire there.

But there were no fresh reports of fighting along Croatia's long Adriatic coast or in the area south of its capital Zagreb.

Talks between the warring sides were cancelled Tuesday following what the Croatians called the "utter failure" of negotiations arranged for last Sunday between the army, the Croats and United Nations and European Community observers.

The federal army said the Croats had set impossible pre-conditions to new talks.

U.N. envoy Herbert Okun however managed to meet Croatian President Franjo Tudjman at the weekend and Tuesday was having separate talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milošević and federal Defence Minister Vojko Kadijević.

In view of the upsurge in fighting, there seemed little prospect that Mr. Okun would advise that the time was right for sending in a U.N. peacekeeping force, as called for by both sides.

Gen. Kadijević was also to meet later Tuesday with Alija Izetbegović, president of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which fears an extension of the Croatian fighting into its territory.

As in Croatia, Bosnia's Serb minority has said it will break away rather than become part of an independent state.

Mr. Izetbegović has formally asked the U.N. to send troops to his republic regardless of what it does in Croatia, but it is now known whether a reply has yet been received.

COLUMN

Feminists want 'mother Christmas' alongside Santa

HELSINKI (R) — Feminists in Finland are demanding that Santa Claus should be accompanied by a woman on his Christmas sleigh rides around the world.

The man in red robes is traditionally depicted in Finland as being married. Paid Santa-Clauses who visit homes to bring presents and sing carols often bring a "wife" along.

But the league of Finnish feminists would like to see mother Christmas gaining international status. "Why can't Santa ride with his wife on his reindeer around the world?" asked Leena Ruumi, an official of the League of Finnish feminists.

"Mother Christmas would be a sign of greater sexual equality."

Father Christmas robbers hold up Swedish bank

STOCKHOLM (R) — Two robbers, both disguised as Santa Claus, held up a Swedish bank at gunpoint Monday and escaped with Christmas sacks bulging with cash, police said.

The pair surprised the bank, at Tabu North of Stockholm, by descending rapidly from a hole in the ceiling, drawing guns and commanding staff to fill their sacks with money.

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Friends, family mourn Chinese political activist

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PEKING (R) — Friends and relatives of a political activist who died last week of cancer used his funeral Tuesday to quietly remember the 1989 military crackdown that ended massive pro-democracy protests.

About 100 people, including several well-known dissidents, paid their last respects to Wen Jie, 28, who died Friday after being hospitalised since January with colon cancer.

Those who attended the service first had to sign a register. Officials from the Peking Fashion Institute, where Mr. Wen taught classical Chinese literature, tried to keep reporters out.

Plainclothes police filmed the service, and dragged away a foreign reporter who tried to photograph the body, witnesses said.

About 30 other friends who gathered outside the hospital with white funeral wreaths were stopped at the gate. One later said they had reserved a time for a separate memorial service at the hospital but hospital officials refused to allow them to hold it, claiming the slot had gone to the protesters.

They followed the body to Babaoshan, a cemetery on the outskirts of Peking, where it was to be cremated. Cemetery workers whisked the body away after family members paid their last respects, and many of the friends were not allowed a final viewing.

Instead, they bowed deeply to a photograph of Mr. Wen carried by his nephew, and then pinned their black armbands to a wreath with black and red flowers.

Two white streamers with black borders hung from the wreath. A friend explained that they were purposely left blank "to make people think."

Bangladesh forces on alert as

Burma starts military build-up

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (R) — Bangladesh put its border forces on high alert Tuesday after intelligence reports said Burma had started a huge military build-up along the border, security officials said.

Residents were being told to evacuate border villages, they said.

Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman told Soe Myint the incident violated a 1978 border agreement and demanded urgent steps to defuse tension.

"We have also urged Myanmar (Burma) to urgently return all arms and ammunition, to stop troops build-up and other provocative acts and arrange adequate compensation for the losses, including loss of life."

Polish parliament approves new government

WARSAW (R) — Poland's deeply divided parliament finally voted in a new government Monday after eight weeks of wrangling over economic policy since the country's first free post-war general elections.

The Sejm (lower house) voted 235 to 60 with 139 abstentions for the government of Prime Minister Jan Olszewski, even though the Solidarity lawyer backed

a government was not formed ... There can be no breakthrough in the economy," Mr. Olszewski told deputies before the vote.

"We face dramatic and painful problems, social patience is running away and protests spread throughout the country, but no Polish government would now be able